Gov't troops kill 5 members of NPA rival group

Story on PAGE A2

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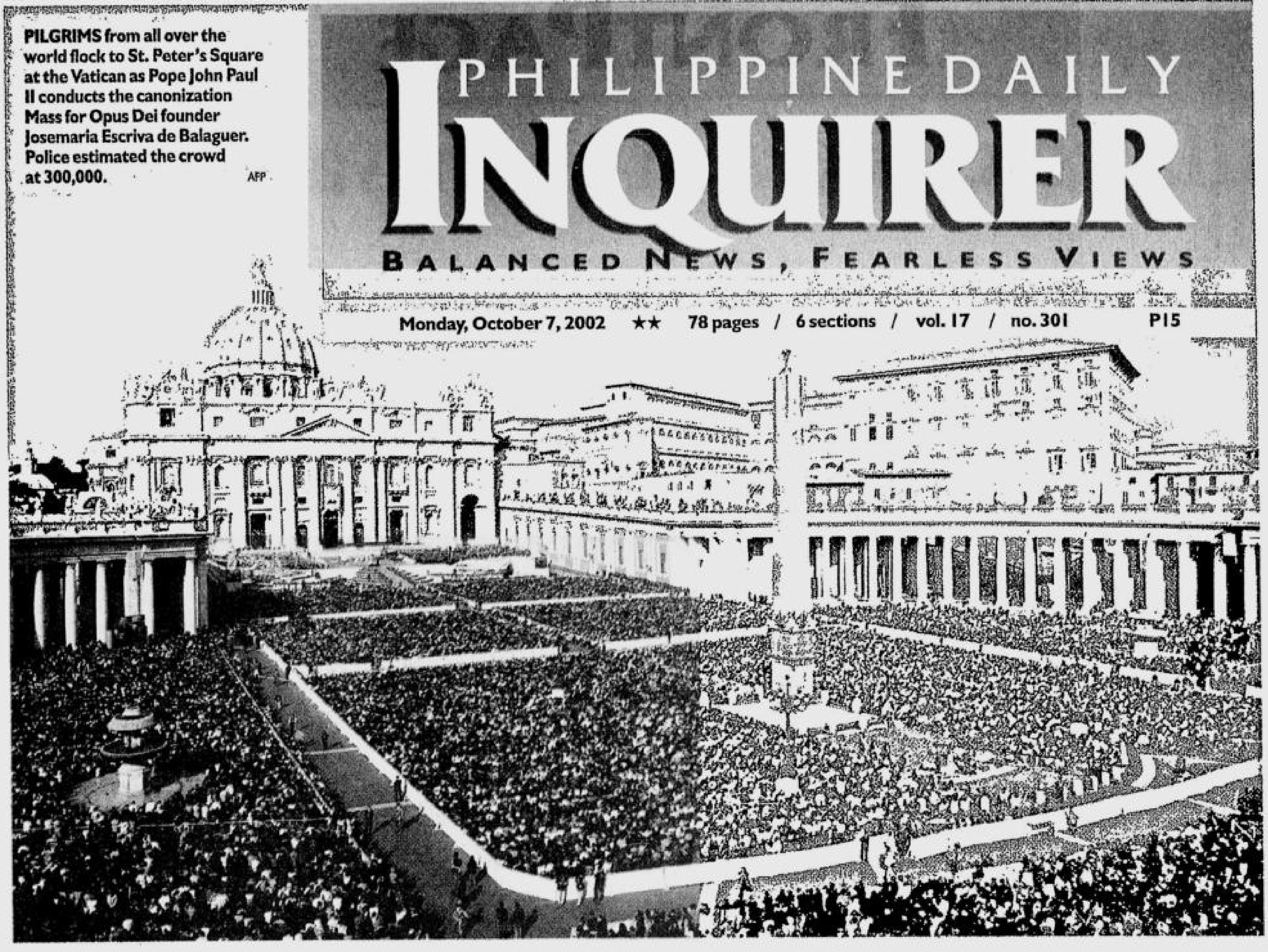
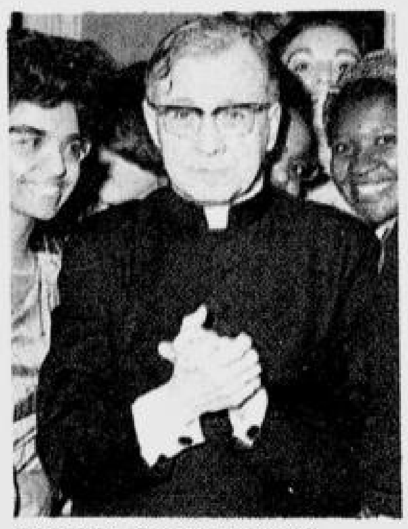


PILGRIMS from all over the world flock to St. Peter's Square at the Vatican as Pope John Paul II conducts the canonization Mass for Opus Dei founder Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer. Police estimated the crowd at 300,000. AFP



ESCRIVA, the controversial founder of the conservative Catholic group Opus Dei, is shown in this 1971 file photo with African and Asian women in Rome. AFP

Opus Dei founder now a saint

VATICAN CITY—Applauded by one of the largest crowds ever to spill out of St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II on Sunday raised to sainthood the controversial founder of Opus Dei, a conservative Catholic group dedicated to upholding Church teaching and striving for holiness in everyday life.

Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer's canonization, only 27 years after the Spanish priest's death, was achieved in remarkably swift time by the Vatican's

OPUS/ A20

Corporal in kidnap named

2 integrees also linked to Sulu abduction

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Breaking her silence on the abduction of a GMA 7 reporter and his cameraman in Sulu, prime suspect Hadja Jarma Imran, alias Hadja Lyn (not Leng as reported earlier) yesterday said three enlisted men under the intelligence officer of the 104th Army Brigade were behind the abduction.

Lyn said Cpl. Mohammad Ailani and two other intelligence assets of the Army unit abducted GMA reporter Carlo Lorenzo and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales.

In a telephone interview, Lyn told the INQUIRER that the three men who snatched Lorenzo and Ordiales were working for Capt. Alex Musngue, the intelligence officer.

Lyn, a former real estate broker who is working with the military for the surrender of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) members, said she learned about the men behind the abduction from Col. Alexander Aleo, newly installed commander of the brigade.

Aleo confirmed that Musngue was his intelligence officer, but said he was now in Zamboanga City.

Lyn said Aleo revealed to her that Mohammad and two intelligence assets, who are MNLF integrees, had abducted Lorenzo and Ordiales. The GMA Network personnel were seized on Sept. 28 and released on Oct. 3.

"*Kaya diyan ko nalaman na hindi escort ko ang kumuha kina Carlo dahil kasama ko ito at ang kumuha sa kanila ay isang Corporal Mohammad at dalawang MNLF integrees na tao ni Musngue* (I learned from him that my escort didn't seize Carlo because my escort was with me and those responsible were Corporal Mohammad and two MNLF integrees under him)," she said.

CORPORAL/A18

Bomb blast won't stop RP-US exercises

THE PHILIPPINES and the United States will press ahead with scheduled joint military exercises despite the killing of a US soldier in a bomb attack, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Sunday.

About 600 US soldiers are scheduled to arrive this month for the next phase of exercises to be held in Luzon, Golez said without giving further details.

Military officials earlier said another batch of US military advisers was also expected to arrive this year in the lawless island of Jolo, where Moro gunmen allied with Abu Sayyaf bandits are holding hostage three Indonesian sailors and four women Jehovah's Witnesses.

Hundreds of US Special Forces members were deployed to the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Basilan this year to "train and assist" Filipino troops. The six-month joint operation led to the rescue of the last US hostage held by the bandits and the death of the most notorious of their leaders, Abu Sabaya.

"Exercises will proceed. Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder exercises) is here to stay," Golez said over dzBB radio.

"The cooperation between the United States and the Philippines has been great and this bloody incident will only strengthen this bond. This is a friendship forged in blood," he added.

Sgt. Mark Jackson and two Filipinos were killed in the bomb attack in Zamboanga City on Wednesday. More than 20 others, including another American serviceman, were wounded.

Authorities are still in the dark

BOMB/ A0

Boat with explosives rams French oil tanker

SANA, Yemen—An explosion ripped through a French oil tanker off the coast of Yemen on Sunday, igniting an inferno that French diplomats and Yemeni officials said could have been caused by leaking crude or a bomb attack.

Government officials said the Limburg, with 25 crew members on board, was coming into the southeastern Mina al-Dabah port in the Gulf of Aden when its hold leaked crude and exploded.

But an official source in Paris said there were strong indications that the blast was a deliberate attack.

"A very serious sign, solid information should permit us to support this view," said the source, who declined to be identified. "This is not a theory without any foundation."

Earlier, French Vice Consul in Yemen Marcel Goncalves said a boat packed with explosives rammed and badly holed the French supertanker off Yemen, a week before the second anniversary of the terrorist attack on the US warship Cole.

Twelve of the 25 crew had been "recovered" and hospitalized with injuries, but the oth

BOAT/ A20

Gov't presses for dialogue with Nur loyalists in MNLF

By Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The government is bent on meeting with top Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commanders who are loyal to their detained leader Nur Misuari in an attempt to dissuade them from joining the Abu Sayyaf and other lawless groups.

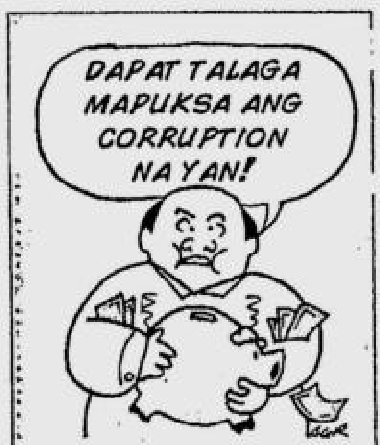
Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita said "there is an urgent need" for the government to hold a dialogue with the MNLF field commanders, citing intelligence reports that some of them were contemplating joining the Abu Sayyaf or the Pentagon kidnap gang.

The US government has listed the Abu Sayyaf as among the terrorist groups allied with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. Its remaining members, mostly based in Sulu, Basilan and other provinces in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, are now the object of a massive military and police hunt.

Speaking over local radio station dxMY on Saturday, Ermita said the Abu Sayyaf has been a big headache for the government.

Its leader, Khaddafy Janjalani,

GOV'T/A18



DAPAT TALAGA MAPUKSA ANG CORRUPTION NA YAN!

Global role eyed for pork champions

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo J. Angara must be joking.

Angara urged Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who, along other members of Congress, receive millions of pesos in pork barrel, to lead a global effort by parliaments of various countries to form a Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (Gopac).

GLOBAL/ A19

Education stats paint gloomy picture

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

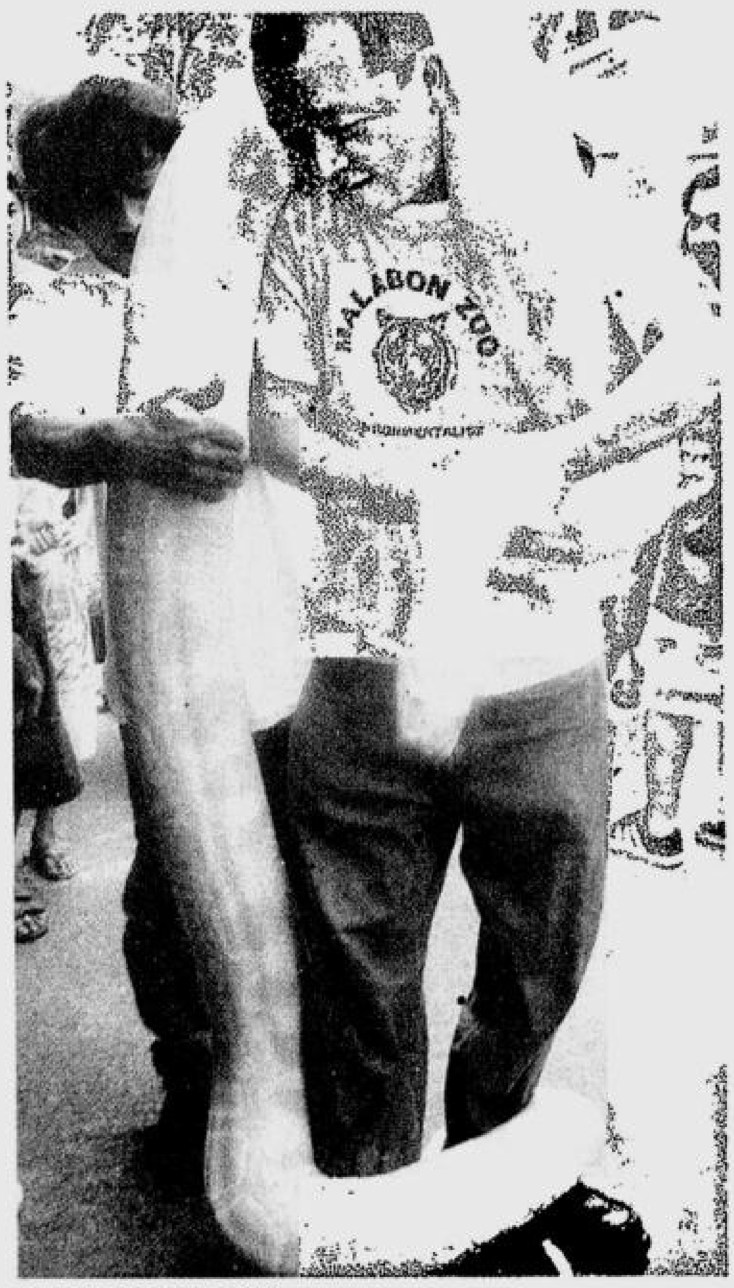
THE DEFICIENCIES of basic education (elementary and high school) in the Philippines block the access of millions of our young people to the advantages offered by the age of information technology.

The educational system is inadequate in coping with the challenges of the IT revolution that is reshaping the global economy and rearranging power structures. To say that the educational system is in crisis is to understate the problem. We like to claim we have one of the highest literacy rates in the world (94 percent), but this is only a facade that hides the fact that our basic educational system is not prepared to cope with the complex issues of globalization, tough economic competition and even the rising era of populist politics.

The appeal of show biz celebrities as recruits for political leadership is probably a symptom of the hidden illiteracy produced by our basic educational system. At the beginning of each school year, press stories of shortages of classrooms, facilities and books, and the swelling entrants to grade school have become routine.

National hero Jose Rizal, more than a century ago, said education was the best weapon against poverty. Today, more than half of our people are poor. But much

EDUCATION/ A19



ST. FRANCIS' DAY JOAN BONDOC
Malabon zoo owner Manny Tangco brings his 20-foot, 150-kilo pet python for blessing at the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City during the celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. ***(More photos on Page A18.)***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/07/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

Troops kill 5 members of NPA rival group

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, Pampanga—Five suspected communist rebels were killed Sunday in an encounter with policemen and soldiers here.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said the slain rebels belonged to the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB), a rival of the New People's Army. Both groups are known to operate in this town.

The RHB had splintered years ago from the Communist Party of the Philippines over ideological and financial differences.

Initial reports reaching regional police headquarters, however, said the fatalities belonged to the old communist party's Hukbong Mapagpapalaya ng Bayan (Huks) but this could not be confirmed.

Mendoza said only one of the fatalities has been identified—Bingo Dizon. He said Dizon had a warrant of arrest issued against him for the slaying of an Angeles City policeman last year.

The firefight which began at 11:40 a.m. lasted 10 minutes. It also resulted in the recovery of six high-powered firearms from the rebels.

Members of the police's provincial mobile group and the Army's 69th Infantry Battalion trapped the suspected rebels in the house of a certain Clarita in a remote village here.

No soldiers or civilians were reported hurt.

Arrested

As this developed, the military announced the arrest of the secretary of the Communist Party of the Philippines Bicol Regional Party Committee and three companions at about 9:45 a.m. on Thursday in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

An unofficial report relayed to the INQUIRER by a member of the intelligence community said the military arrested Iglicerio Pernia, alias Ka Choy, and three unidentified companions while they were on a passenger bus bound for Manila from Bicol.

The suspects did not put up a fight after the bus was stopped at a military checkpoint along the Quirino diversion highway in Tagkawayan.

The report was confirmed to the INQUIRER by a military official, who requested anonymity, as the military had yet to formally present to media the suspects who are being held at the Southern Luzon Unified Command in Camp Nakar, Lucena City.

The report said police intelligence officers alerted the military about the presence of the NPA leader and his companions on the Tawtrasco bus. The military quickly set up a checkpoint and flagged down the vehicle. Pernia was reportedly positively identified by a military asset.

Gunrunners

In Camarines Norte, three suspected NPA rebels were captured in an encounter with Army troops at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, at the boundary of Barangay Lucbanan, Capalonga, and Barangay Pigdinan, Labo. Soldiers recovered an M16 rifle during the incident.

In a related development, a joint National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine Air Force team arrested three alleged firearms traffickers who reportedly supplied guns to communist rebels in Central Luzon.

Investigators are trying to find out if the confiscated firearms had come from the police or armed forces armories.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as electrical technician Ramon D. Villarca, 48, of Maypajo, Caloocan City; businessman Mario F. Matic, 62, of Taft Avenue, Pasay City, and businessman Vic Gracia, 50, of Marikina Heights, Marikina.

They were arrested during separate raids in their homes, Wycoco said. *With Martin P. Marfil, Philip C. Tubeza, and Tony S. Macasinag and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Stratfor is wrong, embassy says

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED States Embassy yesterday dismissed as "erroneous" the analysis of, ironically, a US-based think tank that said the American presence in the country was inciting terrorist attacks on the Philippines, including the most recent bombing incident in Zamboanga City.

This developed even as Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople acknowledged that the two countries' joint efforts against terrorism was starting to become costly for the US, with another American soldier killed in the Thursday blast.

US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said Stratfor, a Texas-based think tank, was incorrect in saying that the cooperation between the US and the Philippines had made the latter a target of terrorists.

Kelly said the theory "does not stand up to close scrutiny because of the fact that (the Philippine government itself has admitted having) problems in fighting terrorists."

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have arrived in Zamboanga City to investigate the bombing incident, in coordination with local police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Kelley withheld comment on whether the US believes the AFP and Philippine National Police assessment that the Abu Sayyaf group was behind the incident.

Ople, in a statement released yesterday afternoon, condemned the Thursday bombing.

He said RP-US cooperation had brought "clear results," but that the price has been steep. "Earlier this year," he recounted, "the Americans lost 10 brave servicemen. In the last bombing, another American life was lost."

A Chinook helicopter involved in the previous Balikatan exercises crashed off Negros Oriental early this year, claiming the lives of all 10 US soldiers on board.

In Congress, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla has called for the pullout of all remaining American forces in the country, insisting that their continued presence served as "a magnet for terrorists."

The appeal followed last week's explosion in Zamboanga City, which also killed two Filipinos.

In a phone interview, the Nueva Vizcaya representative said the US might use the bombing as an excuse to bring in more troops.

"This (would make us) a jumping board for US operations in nearby countries," Padilla warned.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran urged Malacañang to cancel a military exercise which, he claimed, was set to start this month in Northern Luzon.

In a statement, he said some 600 Marines were expected to arrive for the new RP-US war games called Talon Vision 2002. He challenged Malacañang and the Armed Forces to disclose details about the training.

"We hope the recent bombing in Zamboanga (was) not a ruse to justify the upcoming exercise and push the government's campaign for the ratification of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement," Beltran said.

At the same time, he alerted human rights organizations to the possibility that, because of last week's blast, innocent civilians would be arrested.

"Investigations . . . should by all means continue," Beltran said, "but with care." *With Christine O. Avendaño*

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RP looking to snag Security Council seat

By Norman Bordadora

IT'S ALL systems go in the Philippines' bid to gain a seat in the United Nations Security Council in 2004.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople has instructed Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, the country's permanent representative to the UN, to woo the Asian bloc in the world body to endorse the Philippines as its consensus nominee to the powerful council.

"We are confident the Philippines would soon be sitting in the Security Council," Ople said.

The seat is one of ten "rotating seats" for the non-permanent members of the council. The five permanent members with veto powers are the United States, Britain, China, Russia and France.

"The endorsement (of the Philippines) by the Asian group will clinch the seat for us since this would mean there would be no other candidates for the Asian seat on the council," Ople said.

The foreign affairs secretary said he has instructed Yuchengco to invoke a tradition among Asian countries that makes known the continent's lone nominee to the Security Council one year before scheduled UN elections, this one to occur in November 2003.

"We are looking forward to this landmark event which would validate the rising stature of the Philippines in the international community under the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo," Ople said.

Ople himself campaigned for a Philippine seat on the council during the 57th UN General Assembly last September.

The secretary met with the representatives of more than a dozen countries from Asia, Europe, North America and Africa whose respective support was deemed critical for the Philippine bid for council membership.

Ople over the weekend left for another series of foreign visits, this time in Southeast Asia.

He was scheduled to attend the First South Pacific Dialogue in Jakarta. The dialogue on issues confronting the Pacific countries is an initiative of Indonesia.

He is also scheduled to address the World Economic Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Ople will discuss the country's foreign policy with regard to security and counter-terrorism in the forum today.

Nat'l printing office gets reprieve

THE NATIONAL Printing Office, which prints ballots and election forms, will no longer be abolished.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the House committee on appropriations approved last week the NPO's proposed budget for next year.

The NPO was among 14 government agencies earmarked for abolition or streamlining by the Department of Budget and Management due to cost-cutting.

Last month, Bunye appealed to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to reconsider the proposal to abolish the 102-year-old NPO.

He said the agency was indispensable. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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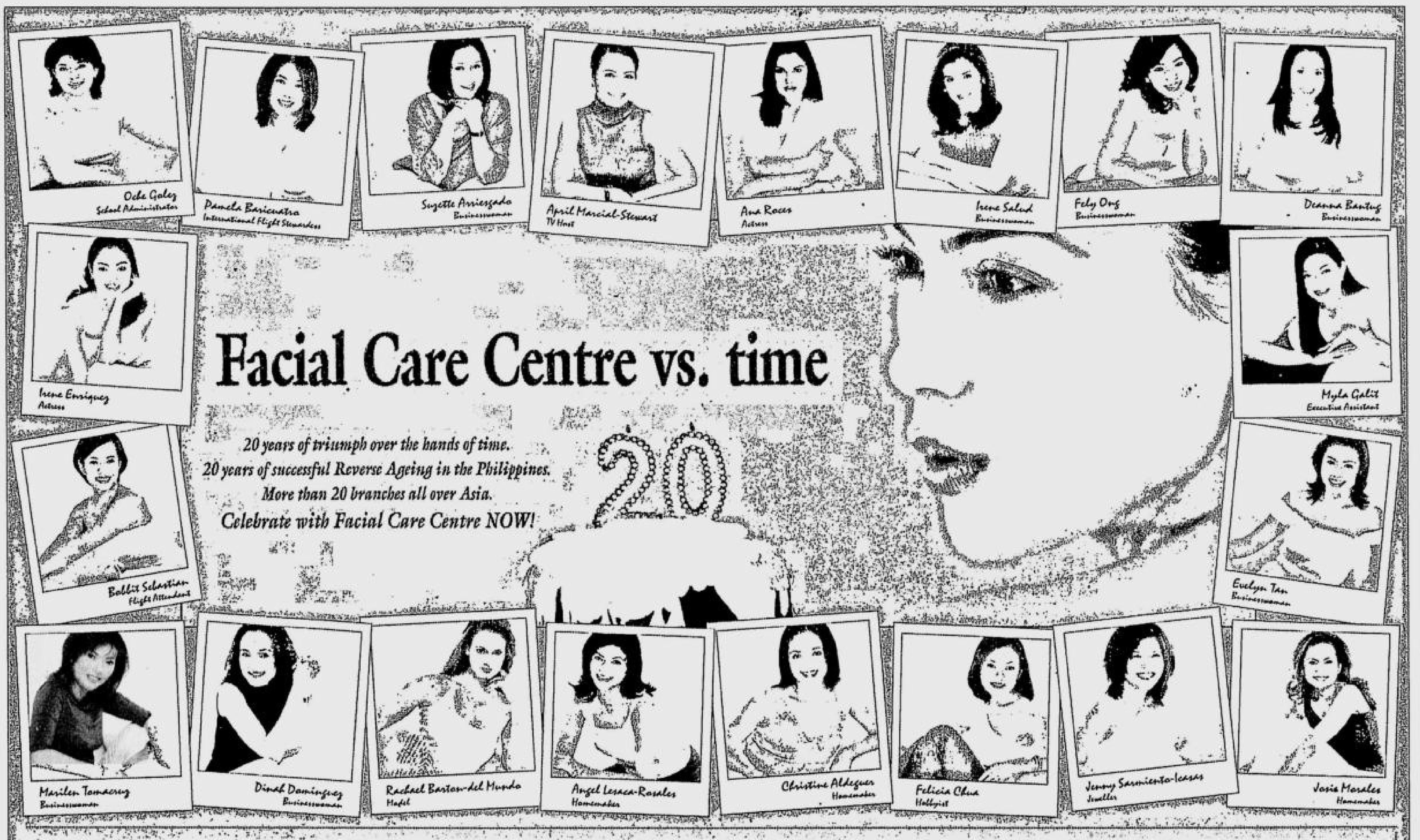
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RP asking Washington for 10-year delay of open skies, cites Iraq attack

THE PHILIPPINES has urged the United States to defer for another 10 years the implementation of their "open skies" agreement for passenger traffic, citing a possible US attack on Iraq war as a reason, documents show.

"Postponement of passenger 'open skies' has become even more imperative in view of the ill-effects on the airline industry of (an) impending US attack on Iraq," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a paper released to reporters yesterday.

"World economic conditions after an attack would suffer unfavorable, if not irrevocable, setbacks, most specially on the airline industry," the paper added.

In a diplomatic note to the US Embassy on Oct. 3 and also released to reporters yesterday, the DFA accepted a US proposal to negotiate a liberalized all-cargo air services agreement, and proposed talks in the last week of November.

But it called for another 10-year delay of their "open skies" agreement for passengers, due to take effect in October 2003.

The "open skies" arrangement provides for the lifting of all restrictions on capacity, frequency and routes of flights between the Philippines and the United States.

The two countries concluded the agreement in 1982 but its implementation has been repeatedly postponed upon requests from the Philippines. The last agreement to postpone it is to expire on Sept. 30 next year.

Filipino legislators and airline industry officials have opposed its implementation, warning it would give US carriers unlimited access to any destination in the Philippines and pave the way for foreign domination of the country's air traffic.

Supporters of "open skies" said, however, that the agreement would give the Philippines wider access to the US market and benefit the country's economy. *Reuters*

GMA police order mere gimmickry?

CEBU CITY—Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel has criticized President Macapagal-Arroyo's memorandum directing the National Police Commission to empower Metro Manila's mayors to take over control of their police forces, saying it was "a form of gimmickry."

He said the President's directive under Memorandum Order 77 was deceptive since the Napolcom still maintains administrative control, or the power to hire and fire, over the Metro Manila police forces.

The senator said that while he was not opposed to the the mayors, instead of Napolcom, having control over police forces, he stressed that the Philippine National Police Law must first be amended.

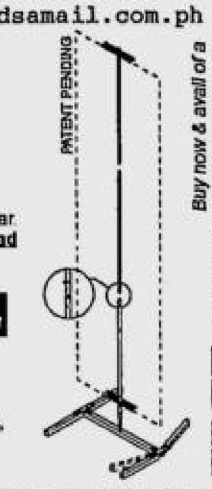
He said the Senate has already approved such a bill during the 11th Congress. But the bill has remained stuck in the House.

"There is a law that governs the police and one can't just amend the law by issuing a presidential memorandum," he told a forum here on Saturday sponsored by the Center for Participatory Governance.

He said the President may have issued the memorandum "to curry favor with some mayors."

In Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the new police set-up was an experiment.

"We should let this experiment proceed first and find out how it works before immediately dousing cold water on it," he said. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Dona Pazzibugan*



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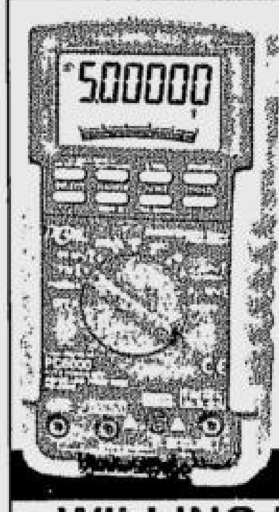
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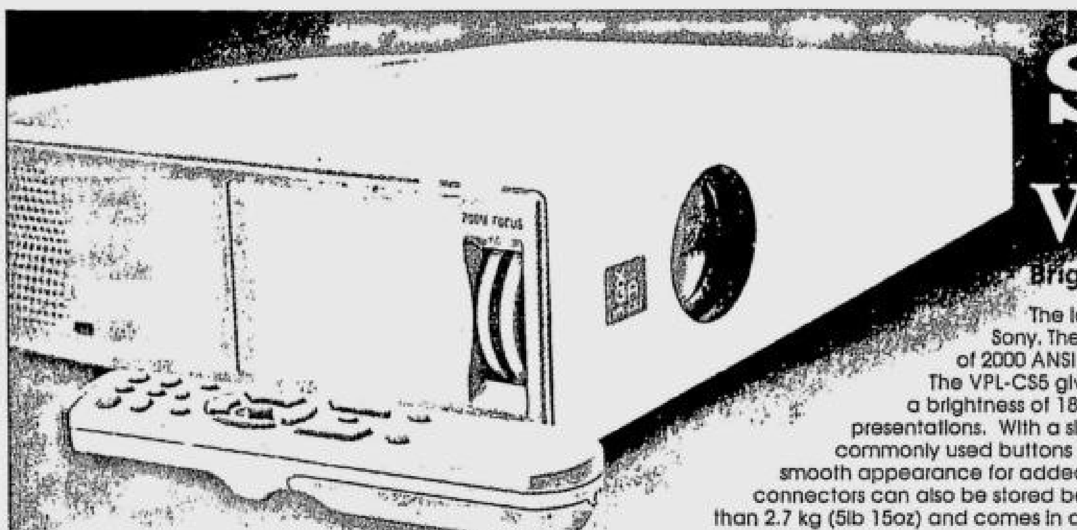
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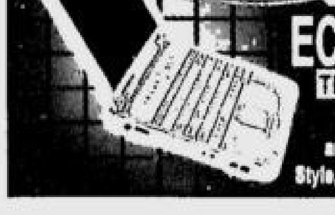
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Palay prices down ₱4.50 per kilo

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

EVEN as farmers are demanding that prices of palay be increased from the current P7.50 per kilo to P15 per kilo, rice farmers in South Cotabato are complaining of a severe drop in the staple's farmgate price to a low of P4.50 per kilo.

From a high of P10.50 a kilo last month, the buying price for palay in South Cotabato has dropped to P4.50 a kilo, said Reynaldo Legaste, the province's agriculture chief who reported that his office has been bombarded by complaints.

Rod Flores, the chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) warned that the drastic drop in palay prices in South Cotabato "will surely have a domino effect on other rice-producing regions and provinces."

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the AMGL blamed the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's policy of rice trade liberalization and the continued importation of rice for the plummeting price of palay (unhusked rice).

KMP chair Rafael Mariano said the abundant supply of rice owing to rice importation and unhampered smuggling has led to the drop in palay prices "to a very insulting and unjust price of P4.50 a kilo."

"Definitely, the impact on our local production is to push palay prices down. At the same time, it will cause the prices of milled rice to go up," said Mariano.

An estimated 800,000 metric tons of foreign rice will arrive in the first quarter of 2003. This year's imports are pegged at 1.14 million metric tons.

"The peasantry's clamor to raise the support price of palay to P15 a kilo as an immediate economic relief has become more justified," said Flores.

The KMP and AMGL last month launched a signature campaign to support their petition for a government-subsidized increase of farmgate prices of palay up to P15. They proposed that the National Food Authority buy 90 percent of domestic palay instead of the current 10 percent that the NFA is mandated to buy from farmers.

The two groups believe that by buying 90 percent of the domestic marketable supply of palay at P15, the NFA could boost the price of palay and stop predatory pricing by private rice traders.

According to their own studies, a farmer with one hectare of land earns only P26.61 a day at the current P7.50 buying price of palay. It is because the farmer spends P26,104.15 for production and earns a net income of P3,145.85 in one cropping.

Mariano said the farmers' earnings have continued to fall as production costs increase, and palay prices tend to fall during the harvest season.

"Ms Macapagal's subservience to the monopoly dictates of the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (AoA-WTO) should be blamed for the peasantry and the people's economic sufferings," he said.

Mariano warned that the current policy of rice trade liberalization and importation would increase the country's dependence on imported rice, and threaten the country's food security and self-sufficiency.

"We demand that the Macapagal-Arroyo government to increase the NFA's local procurement funds through budgetary allocation, stop NFA privatization, rice trade liberalization and importation," he said.

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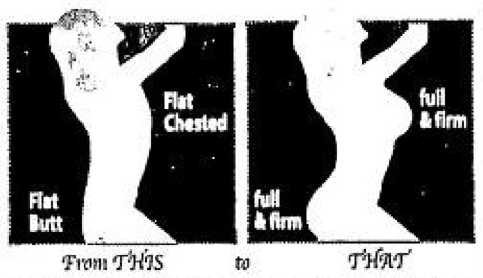

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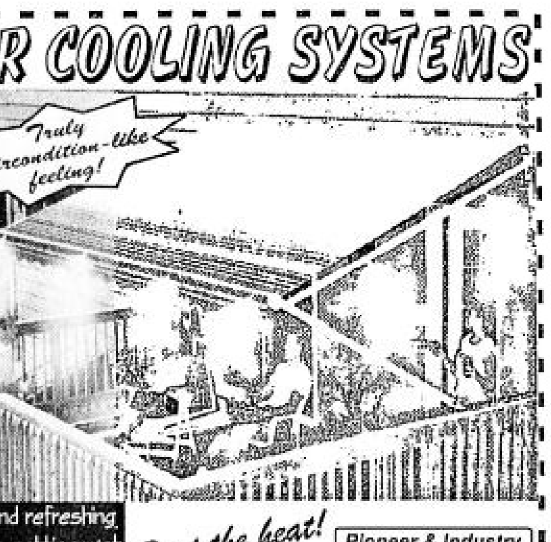

Drilon plans novel scheme for Transco

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT should use the "golden share" concept in the proposed Transmission Corp. (Transco) franchise bill to protect the public interest and national security, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

The concept would mean the government would hold or retain shares in a privatized Transco so that it can veto or counter decisions that are detrimental to public interest or national security, he explained.

It will also allow government to veto dispositions of assets, change of control, mergers and other major corporate decisions.

Drilon said he would push for the inclusion of this "golden share" provision in the Transco bill now under consideration by the Senate committee on public services.

The grant of a franchise to Transco is part of the privatization process of the state-owned National Power Corp. A privatized Transco will take over the transmission services of Napocor.

"We should exercise extreme caution in the way the government should pursue its privatization, taking into consideration that transmission is a monopoly and the most profitable aspect of the operations of the Napocor," Drilon said.

He said the provision would enable the government to retain the power to regulate transmission costs until such time that free market competition shall have emerged.

The "bitter lessons" learned by legislators from the previous deregulation of certain industries, particularly the petroleum industry, should also prompt them to look for a way by which vital industries such as transmission can be privatized with the least possible harm to public interest, he said.

He said the "golden share" concept has been extensively used in privatizations in Malaysia, Singapore and Britain.

In Malaysia, for example, the concept was used in the sale of the shares of Malaysian Airlines, Telekom Malaysia, Berwaja Steel and many other state companies, he said.

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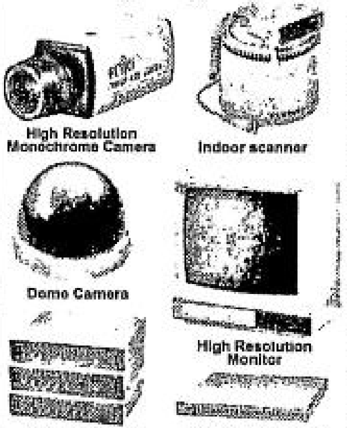

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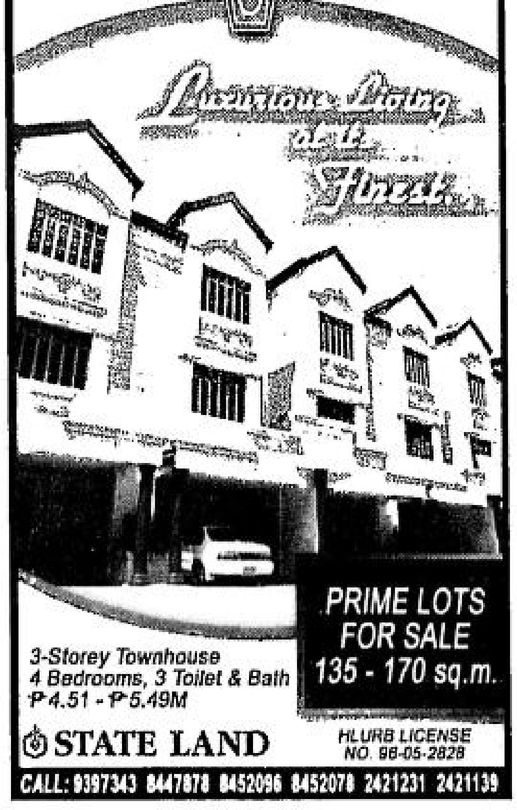

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Union wants Alvarez probed

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT department employees have filed a complaint of graft against Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for his allegedly excessive hiring of consultants who were paid a total of P7.9 million in the 2nd quarter alone.

The DENR Employees Union (DENREU) filed the complaint the other day before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) after being informed by PAGC chair Dario Rama that Malacañang had endorsed the union's complaint against Alvarez for immediate investigation.

Alvarez dismissed the allegations as rehashed charges which had been brought up by the DENREU to oppose his confirmation at the congressional Commission on Appointments. Alvarez was eventually confirmed by the CA.

He said the complaint "has no basis in fact."

According to documents furnished by the union, the DENR had paid P7.9 million in honoraria to 195 consultants for the months of April to June.

This amounted to an average of P4.67 million a month going to the consultants, said DENREU president Julie Gorospe Ibuan.

"When you sum up their monthly fees for 12 months, this would amount to about P56 million, a huge unnecessary expenditure in the face of the deficit problem of the government," Ibuan said.

According to the complaint, the alleged excessive hiring of the consultants was first noted by the DENR's chief accountant, Elvra Caparas, who called the attention of Alvarez and other DENR officials through a memorandum last July 2.

"The hiring of individual contract of services has gone to an alarming number of personnel . . . It exceeded the contract hiring of 13 personnel approved by the Department of Budget and Management," the Caparas memo said.

Caparas reminded Alvarez of the existing regulations on contract hiring.

Alvarez explained that the hiring of consultants was vital in delivering the targets set by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address.

He explained that the consultants were experts hired for foreign-funded projects and performed specific functions.

He said the P56 million a year figure cited by the union was inaccurate as the department did not hire 195 consultants for the entire year.

"Some were hired for two months, three months, for only a period of time," he said.

Alvarez is the third Cabinet member, after former education secretary Raul Roco and agrarian reform secretary Hernani Braganza, to face a graft complaint from a government union.

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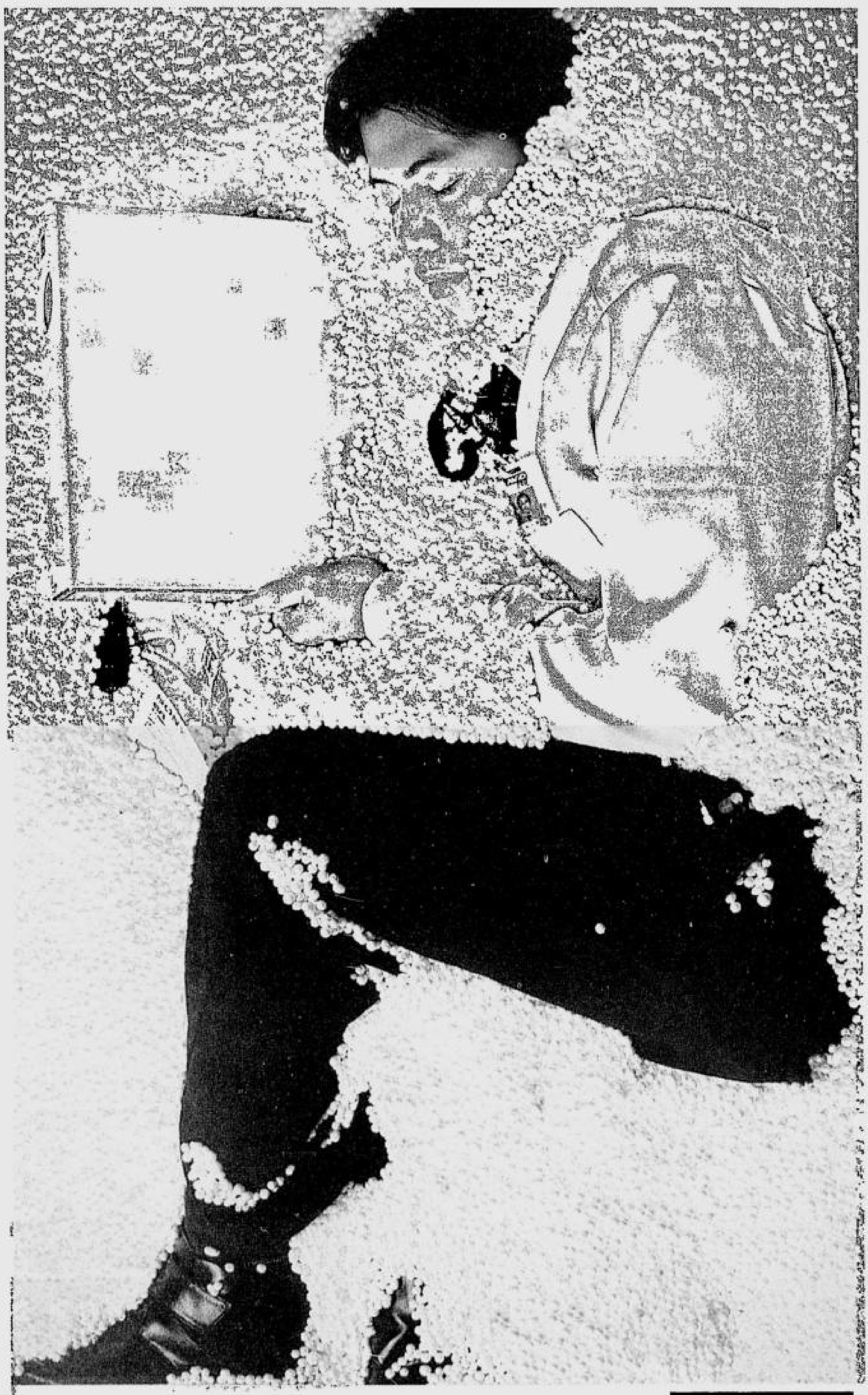

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CHILD ABUSE CASE

Tuquero faces graft raps

By Michael Ubac

FORMER Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero has been charged with graft for allegedly intervening in the dismissal of child abuse charges against a Caloocan trial court judge in 2000.

In a complaint filed last Friday, state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. to investigate Tuquero and then file charges against him with the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

Velasco also urged Gervacio to determine the criminal liability of Caloocan Judge Adoracion Angeles, the judge who had been indicted by a Quezon City court for allegedly maltreating her 13-year-old niece from Sept. 1998 to April 1999.

The case did not prosper after the justice department decided to withdraw the charges allegedly because of Tuquero's intervention.

Velasco said Tuquero, the justice secretary in the previous Estrada administration, may have violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law when he asked then Undersecretary Antonio Llorente to look into the case against Angeles.

"Judge Angeles decried the filing of the case against her and used her connection and influence to reverse it. To this end, she easily got the assistance of Secretary Tuquero and he intervened for her," said Velasco.

Angeles was the trial judge who convicted 26 senior members of the Aquila Legis Juris Fraternity for the murder of Leonardo "Lenny" Villa during hazing rites in February 1991.

It was Velasco who handled the case against Angeles as a member of the DOJ Task Force on Child Protection.

Velasco opposed Tuquero's inclusion in the list of 22 aspirants for Ombudsman because of questions on "his competence, integrity and independence."

He said the Office of the Ombudsman "demands that the position should be occupied by a person of honor, principle and integrity."

Velasco lodged the complaint for the allegedly "hasty and questionable" dismissal of child abuse charges against Angeles by Tuquero when the latter was still justice secretary in April 2000.

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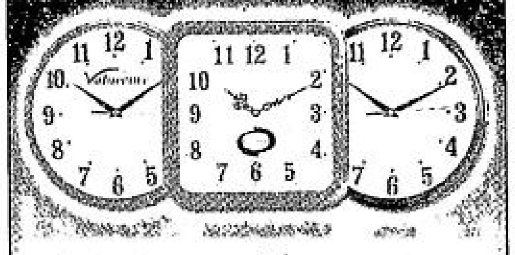

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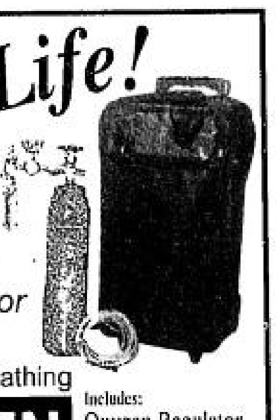

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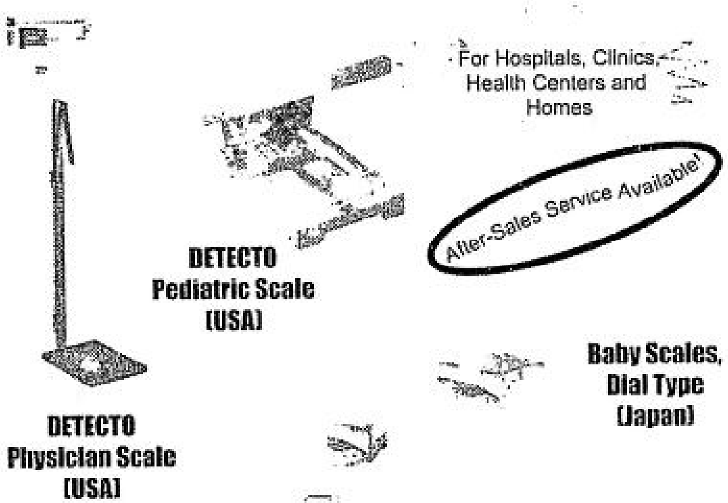

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Suspicion

EDITORIALS

BEFORE THEY were literally blown away Wednesday night, cousins Bernard Limba and Marlon Tuballa were by accounts on the brink of new beginnings—one to "legalized" employment in Malaysia and the other to a formal union with the woman he loved. They were on a pleasant errand of buying food when the end came in the form of a terrible explosion that, according to those whom destiny assembled at that moment's ground zero, was followed by an enveloping darkness. The manner of their death was sufficiently shocking for the ones they left behind. But what made it infinitely more grievous for their families was the suspicion that they had embarked on a suicide mission—and succeeded.

Indeed, why shouldn't their loved ones rail at the injustice of that suspicion, and at the ones who aired it? Livid, Marlon Tuballa's mother Fidela demanded to know why they who were so bereaved would now be so hounded. His brother pointed out that such an accusation should never have been aired without the evidence to back it, and declared ominously that he, SPO1 Marcel Tuballa, who had helped others seek justice, intended to proceed in a similar fashion for his sibling. And young Sara Boclot, a widow even before she became a bride, bitterly said that while her loss was in itself painful to take, what made it truly unacceptable was the fact that the father of her unborn child—who by her account had kept a piggy bank to save for their wedding and who that very night dropped in at her parents' house to bring her vitamins—was being touted as a criminal.

Now it turns out that Bernard Limba, who had been reported fiddling with a mysterious package on or beside a motorcycle before the supposed "nail bomb" went off, is no longer under suspicion as a suicide bomber. Or at least Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the Armed Forces' public information office, said so. Servando said that the military had merely been looking into the dead man's links with the Abu Sayyaf, if any, and that—his reported words—"in this kind of situation, we just cannot immediately write off anybody." Sure, but are authorities licensed to air suspicion off the cuff, as though they were dropping *bon mots* at a cocktail party? And granting that they have comported themselves as habitually shooting their mouths off at critical instances, why are they allowed to get away with it?

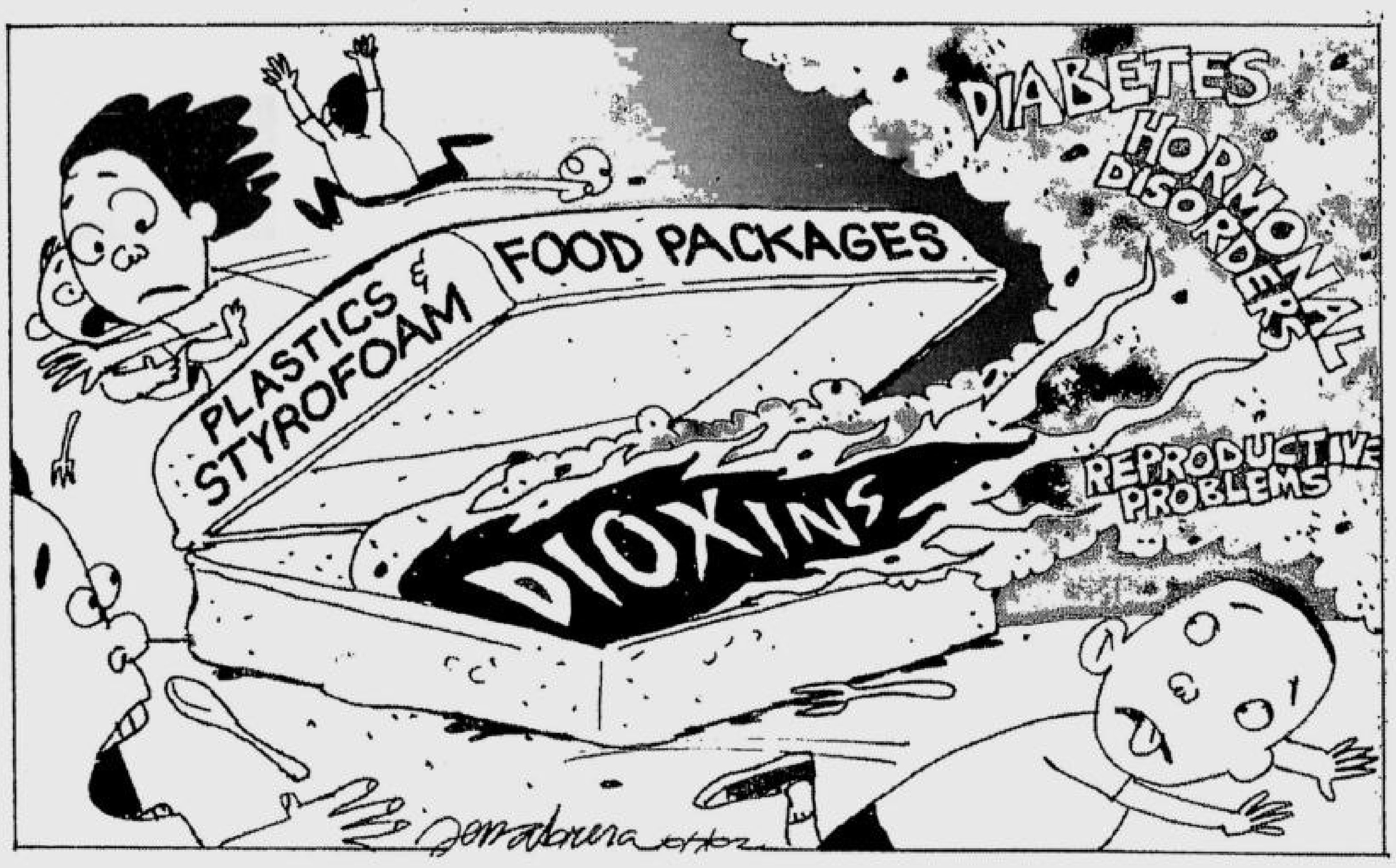
The observer attentive to the propensity of authorities to make announcements at the sight of a media microphone will point out that this is directly related to a chronic inability to solve cases to public satisfaction. Thus, words fly thick and fast, as though the continuing babble will banish the vacuum and take the place of concrete and effective action: The bomb is similar to that planted by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Jolo two months ago. The bomber could be the same man who blew up a bus in Pagadian City late last year. The explosion was set off by suicide bombers.

With the swirling flood of words, whether said officially or anonymously, is it any wonder that lives are tossed about like so much flotsam and the memory of, say, Bernard Limba, dead holder of a brand-new passport and by accounts a dutiful grandson, is dragged in the mire of suspicion? Of such bitter ironies is life made in these parts.

Resurrection

EVEN before the smoke had cleared over the site of the explosion that also claimed the life of an American Green Beret and injured at least 20 Filipinos and another US soldier, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane of the Philippine National Police declared that the Abu Sayyaf was responsible. It was only late Thursday night that his counterpart in the Armed Forces, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, made a similar announcement. In between, various important officials balked at being categorical, saying in effect that it was too early to say who committed the crime.

The suspicion having been made official despite the cacophony of voices either confirming or hedging, it now appears that the bandit group purportedly run to the ground by the combined might of American and Philippine troops has been resurrected and is still capable of sowing mayhem. What this implies is chilling for those resisting the use of the Philippines as a forward base in the US government's global war on terror: The American military presence will be here for the long haul (not that President Macapagal-Arroyo is complaining).



The Puerto Princesa recall poll clarified

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

A NEIGHBOR and his family just returned from a vacation in Palawan and he reported that the situation is very tense in Puerto Princesa where a recall election has just been held. In that election, former Mayor Edward Hagedorn garnered 66 percent of the vote, 20,238 votes against the 17,220 votes for incumbent Mayor Victorino Dennis Socrates, and the 13,241 votes for the third candidate, Vicente Sandoval III. However, the Supreme Court has issued a temporary restraining order enjoining the Commission on Elections not to proclaim the winner until it, the high court, has resolved the petition to disqualify Hagedorn the winner.

Meanwhile Socrates, despite the rebuff from his constituents, still sits as mayor and, according to Hagedorn's followers, is using his powers to "illegally disburse funds, harass employees, and even disregard Civil Service rules on midnight appointments—thereby defeating the real essence of recall." No wonder the situation is very tense. If the Supreme Court doesn't hurry up and lift the TRO, it may even lead to violence and bloodshed.

Because of my neighbor's stories, I got interested in the case, and, during the weekend, pored over copies of voluminous documents on the case: pleadings, legal opinions, decisions from the Comelec's first division and from the en banc, and the high court's TRO.

Briefly, the issue is this: Hagedorn has served three consecutive terms as mayor of Puerto Princesa. In the May 14, 2001 national and local elections, he ran for governor of the province of Palawan and lost. Victorino Socrates ran and he was elected mayor of Peurto Princesa. Thereafter, a petition for the recall of Socrates was filed and given due course by the Comelec.

The Hagedorn camp asked the Comelec whether the former mayor, who respected the three-term limit mandated by the Constitution and ran for a different position after his third term, is qualified to run for the mayoralty position in the recall election.

The Comelec law department, in a reply by Director Jose P. Balbuena on July 12, 2002, said that "it is our opinion that Edward Hagedorn can run for mayor." The latter therefore filed his certificate of candidacy.

A petition to disqualify Hagedorn was filed with the Comelec on the ground that "the Constitution and the Local Government Code mandate that no local elective official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms." If he wins in the recall election, Hagedorn will be serving his fourth term which is prohibited, the petition said.

There is no question that the ban on reelection is not in perpetuity but only for the same position in the succeeding election. The official may run again after a "period of hibernation."

Question: How long should that period of hibernation be?

One full term (three years in the case of mayors), said the petitioners against Hagedorn. The Comelec disagreed and dismissed the petition.

The ban is on "immediate reelection" after three consecutive terms, the Comelec's first division ruled, "without taking issue on whether the period of hibernation should be one full term." In short, an interruption, no matter how short, serves to break the continuation from the end of the third term to a hypothetical fourth term.

"The Sept. 24, 2002 Puerto Princesa recall election is already the second election for the position of mayor of Puerto Princesa after respondent's service of his three consecutive terms. It is not the election that immediately follows his service of three consecutive terms wherein he is prohibited from running as pronounced by the Concom in its No Immediate Reelection vote," the Comelec said. "In short, respondent's non-candidacy in the May 14, 2001 elections served to break the consecutive character of the hypothetical fourth term in relation to the third consecutive term served, such that in the event that he wins is the Sept. 24, 2002 recall election, it would be his first term as Puerto Princesa mayor in the cycle of the three-term limit rule."

"What is being contemplated in the prohibition is regular election for three consecutive terms. Recall is not a regular election; it partakes the nature of a special election, wherein the person elected will only serve the unexpired term. It is imperative that the fourth election must likewise be a regular election. Hence there is therefore no violation of the three-term limit rule when Hagedorn ran in the recall election."

The Comelec en banc went further. It said that petitioners' arguments that Hagedorn is disqualified "is a misplaced conclusion defying logic. It is *non sequitur*."

In the pertinent election laws, the grounds for disqualification are listed and "being a candidate for the fourth time is not included. It is not a ground for disqualification. The rule is: What is excluded should not be included," the Comelec said.

The Constitution employed the term "SERVE," not "reelection" or "being a candidate." "The prohibition refers to the right to serve while the disqualification is concerned with the right to be ELECTED...A candidate...must first be elected before he can be prevented from serving." Therefore, Hagedorn cannot be disqualified from running because running for a fourth term is not among the listed grounds for disqualification.

Besides, there is a difference between the election and recall, the Comelec said. The purpose of an election is to give voters a chance to elect a candidate who enjoys their confidence. The purpose of a recall election is to determine whether or not a local elective official has lost the confidence of the electorate.

The result of the Sept. 24 recall election shows that the Puerto Princesa electorate have lost confidence in their incumbent mayor.

Faith

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AMBASSADOR Reynaldo Arcilla hit the nail right on the head in his letter last Friday. (PDI, 10/4/02) Let me quote from it at length:

"Why single out Iraq? Why not the United Kingdom too? France, China, Russia, Pakistan, India? Yes, even Israel, Iran and North Korea whom everybody suspects possess nuclear weapons. Indeed, why not the United States that has the biggest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction?

"Is it because the United States has branded Iraq as a rogue state? But then, wasn't Saddam a friend of the United States when he was fighting Iran?

"Lest we forget, the United States is the only country that has used a weapon of mass destruction. Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki? In this regard, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has already hinted that where conventional/smart bombs fail to destroy deep bunkers where suspected Iraqi weapons of mass destruction are hidden, 'nuking' them will do the trick."

I've been saying pretty much the same thing over the past couple of months. I saw BBC's coverage of Tony Blair making his pitch before the British parliament, and each time he used the phrase "weapons of mass destruction," which he accused Saddam Hussein of being guilty of amassing, echoing George Bush's line, my own reaction was not to shudder but to laugh. Here clearly was a breathtaking exercise in selective perception. At best, as experts concede, Saddam may have less than 20 missiles capable of reaching Israel. That is all. The United States has thousands of them. Indeed, it has weapons of mass destruction that can annihilate the planet a thousand times over.

The United States in fact, as Joseph Gerson points out, has spent a fortune in "defense" that could have wiped out world hunger several times over. Over the last 10 years, its defense budget has equaled that of the nine next biggest military spenders combined. As Bill Clinton's CIA chief John Deutch put it moreover, the United States "never intended, nor does it now intend to implement" the non-proliferation treaty. And the arms buildup is not merely confined to earth. Since last year, well before 9/11, the US defense strategy has shifted to the "weaponization of space." The idea being to maintain satellites that can target any spot on earth at any given time.

I put the word "defense" in quotation marks remembering what Gerson also said: "Only one nation—the United States—has ever crossed the moral and legal boundary of launching a nuclear attack against human beings. Yet, on more than 20 occasions since the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and *at least five times since the end of the Cold War*, US presidents have prepared to **initiate** nuclear war, during international crises and wars. Daniel Elsberg, who played a major role in designing US Cold War nuclear strategy, explains that US presidents use nuclear weapons 'in the way that you use a gun when you point it at someone's head in a confrontation...whether or not you pull the trigger.'"

Rumsfeld's hints about nuking Iraq, which Arcilla notes, are by no means new.

Al Gore said something some weeks ago that captured the world's fears. Objecting to Bush's war-mongering, he said the United States has frittered away the goodwill America earned after 9/11 and the world's support for its war against terror. What the world now sees as the real threat, he said, is not what countries like Iraq are going to do but what the United States is going to do.

That is completely true, and Bush's recent statements about the United States going to war with Iraq with or without UN sanction aren't going to allay those fears. The grounds for that war are patently irrational. But the incredible wonder of its logic is that if the Iraqis are unable to fight back, as will likely be the case—the elder Bush also claimed Saddam had germ bombs during the Gulf War, weapons of mass destruction that miraculously never got to be used—it will be trumpeted as proof of the effectiveness of the solution. It will be touted as proof of the timeliness of the intervention.

Gerhard Schroeder's justice minister, Herta Daeubler Gmelin, got into hot water for comparing George Bush to Hitler. She has been fired notwithstanding her subsequent claims about being misquoted (what she did do was liken Bush's policies to those of Hitler). But as one German analyst told me, her only fault really was indiscretion. Public office was a demand to be more circumspect about telling the truth. Otherwise, he said, all she did was put into words what most Germans, and probably Europeans, were thinking. They had heard the same arguments before, about one country's right to bring another country to heel on the ground that it represented a threat to it. A threat that was at best questionable, and most overshadowed by the far more awesome threat posed by the country that proposed to end it.

I myself think Bush and Rumsfeld are more like Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. Bush's utterances since 9/11 in fact keep giving me a feeling of déjà vu. I have the sensation of being thrown back to the 1970s and listening to Nixon and Kissinger all over again. The two people who engineered the murder of Salvador Allende—a parallel helped in no small way by American officials hinting broadly they would applaud the murder of Saddam, it would be more "cost effective," one said—and the subsequent destruction of democracy all over the world. The only difference being that Nixon and Kissinger said they were fighting communism and Bush and Rumsfeld say they are fighting terrorism. Well, there is one more difference. Which is that Nixon and Kissinger had infinitely higher IQs. Just look at Bush and Rumsfeld and the first word that comes to mind is "Duh."

All we have to go by with them is faith. No faith has ever been blinder.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

The making of a saint

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

ROME—As this column was being written on Saturday evening in the Eternal City, it was only hours before Pope John Paul II raised Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, the founder of Opus Dei, to the altar of the saints and declared him worthy of honor and emulation within the Church on account of his life of virtue lived to a heroic degree. I journeyed here to witness the canonization as the personal homage of my husband and myself to St. Josemaria. But I also wanted to witness the making of a saint—how the Church renders the supreme accolade to a son or daughter of being declared a saint. Canonization is for a Christian witness a once-in-a-lifetime experience I didn't want to miss.

* * *

In my next column I will try to recreate the unique and unforgettable sights and sounds of St. Josemaria's solemn canonization at the vast St. Peter's Square here in Rome, attended by an estimated close to half a million people from around the world. But since the rites began at 10 a.m. yesterday, Sunday, which is 4 p.m. Manila time, and figuring that I'll be late for my deadline, I chose to dwell today on the complex and painstaking procedures involved in the making of a Saint.

* * *

In the timelessness of the Church, the preparation and the rituals for canonization trace back at least to the pontificate of Sixtus VI in the mid-17th century, which were amended and simplified by the Second Vatican Council of 1982. The high point of yesterday's canonization was when the Holy Father intoned for all the world to hear, in the language he chose (it will be in Latin, the timeless language dating to the time of the Apostles), the "formula" for proclaiming a new saint: "In honor of the Blessed Trinity, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith and the growth of Christian life, with the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and Our Own, after lengthy reflection, having assiduously invoked God's assistance and taken into account the opinion of many brothers of ours in the episcopate, we declare and define Blessed Josemaria Escriva to be a saint, and we enroll him in the Catalogue of the Saints, and we establish that in the whole Church he should be devoutly honored among the saints. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

* * *

Yesterday's ceremony in Rome was the climax of the 27-year journey of St. Josemaria to sainthood, which began soon after his death in Rome on June 26, 1975 to his beatification in 1992 by Pope John Paul II. But perhaps the more accurate thing to say is that his journey to the altar of saints began a hundred years ago this year, when the Founder was born in his native Barbastro in northern Spain on Jan. 9, 1902. For in considering a candidate for sainthood, the Church carefully and painstakingly sifts through every detail of his or her life from the age of reason, for evidences of a life of heroic virtue.

Three years after Escriva's death, 10,000 accounts of favors from around the world attributed to his intercession were written and signed; in the course of time, they reached more than 80,000. Many of them testified to particular spiritual favors such as radical conversions and developing closer ties with the Lord.

* * *

The cause for the beatification of Opus Dei's founder was formally opened on Feb. 19, 1981, six years after his death, with the decree promulgated by Cardinalo Ugo Poletti. Sixty-nine cardinals and about 1,300 bishops from around the world, 41 superiors of religious congregations, priests, religious, representatives of law associations, civil authorities and thousands of others asked the Pope to open the cause. Fr. Flavio Capucci, an Opus Dei priest who had been assigned for 25 years to devote himself almost solely to handling all the Church requirements for the Founder's beatification and canonization, wrote that a total of 980 sessions of judicial proceedings of exceptional duration about Escriva "yielded very solid evidences." He also noted that the testimonies of a hundred eye-witnesses who knew Escriva personally were heard; in one-third of them the span of relationship involved between 20 and 40 years. In addition, the office of the Promoter General of the Faith (formerly called the "devil's advocate") sifted through his many writings, testimonial sources and documents relating to him, as well as counter-testimonies and possible controversial questions.

* * *

On Nov. 8, 1986 the evidentiary phase on Escriva's life and virtues was completed, and he passed the test with flying colors. On April 9, 1990, Pope John Paul II declared the heroicity of his virtues. On July 6, 1991, in the presence of the Holy Father, the decree sanctioning the miraculous character of a cure worked through the intercession of Escriva was read as "an extraordinary sign from God." Chosen among the numerous cures attributed to him was that of Sr. Concepcion Boullon Rubio, who was afflicted with a kind of cancer in 1976.

This "definitive seal placed by God Himself on an exemplary study noted for its depth and rigor," as Father Capucci put it, concluded the steps needed for Escriva's beatification. This first step to sainthood took place on May 17, 1992 before a huge throng of about 300,000 people at St. Peter's Square. Escriva earned the right to be called "Blessed" from then on, and the veneration of the faithful. On Dec. 20, 2001, a pontifical decree recognized the miraculous character of a second cure attributed to his intercession. Thus, Pope John Paul II scheduled Blessed Josemaria's canonization on Oct. 6, 2002, during the centenary of his birth and four days from the 72nd anniversary of the foundation of his life work, Opus Dei.

A saving grace, at least

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

"DON'T trust anybody," television reporter Carlo Lorenzo of GMA-7 said in his first interview when asked what lesson he had learned from his ordeal.

And he was right. Because, like he said, those who were "supposed to protect" them were the very ones who made him and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales the latest kidnap victims in Jolo.

This kidnapping is notable not only because the victims were journalists, and for the way it turned out, with Lorenzo and Ordiales walking free after only five days in captivity, with reportedly not a single peso in ransom paid.

But if we look close enough at the elements of the kidnapping itself, we may be able to see the total picture of what many have called "the most lucrative livelihood" in this benighted land, and more importantly, why it is almost impossible to eliminate.

The most prominent figure in the story appears to be one Hadja Julma Amil or Abdurajak, a.k.a. "Hadja Leng," hadja of course being a title that denotes she has performed the hajj or pilgrimage to the Islamic holy land of Mecca.

Viewed by her detractors as a kind of local "Mata Hari," she was an "asset" who negotiated the surrender of at least one Abu Sayyaf follower, military authorities said.

"Hadja Leng" was reportedly responsible for negotiating the release of ABS-CBN's Val Cuenca and Maan Macapagal who were abducted in Patikul by the group of Abdulmuin Sahiron two years ago, for a reported P6-million ransom.

She was also supposed to negotiate for American Jeffrey Schilling who was kidnapped in the same town by the group of Abu Sabaya who had fled from the heat of military operations in Basilan and had sought refuge with Radulan Sahiron's faction.

Schilling of course escaped with the help of the local police from his detention in Luuk town.

And more recently, Hadja Leng offered her services to work for the release of the three Indonesian sailors who are still in captivity, thus earning the label of "professional negotiator" for her efforts.

According to Lorenzo, those who served as their security escorts were presented as "MNLF integrees," the same troops that kidnapped journalist Arlyn dela Cruz also mentioned as her abductors.

While there are indeed the so-called "scalawags" among these former MNLF fighters who were integrated into the Army or the PNP, as there are in other law-enforcement agencies, it is also known that several MNLF integrees lost their lives in shooting encounters with lawless elements or pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

And especially in the town of Jolo, many residents prefer to call on them for assistance during emergencies, because they do come swiftly, any hour of the day or night.

Gov. Yusop Jikiri negotiated the release of Lorenzo and Ordiales, and although some critics say that Jikiri was compelled to do so because the abduction took place in his own hometown, Indanan, the fact is he was able to get them free without a single shot fired, without a single peso paid in ransom, and the two none the worse for their ordeal except for some scratches and bruises, and, of course, an experience that they will always refer to as the worst nightmare of their lives.

But it also demonstrates the wisdom of what a top-ranking official once proposed: that local officials, including and especially those on the barangay level, are the most effective negotiators for the release of kidnap victims, and should in fact be tasked with the role as part of their official function.

Perhaps it was no less than Divine Providence that made Lorenzo and Ordiales the victims of this kidnapping caper. Maybe, as the more spiritually inclined would say, it was for a purpose.

Journalists, practitioners of a profession that ideally is required to tell the truth, often at great cost, sometimes at all costs, will of course be difficult to intimidate into shutting up.

Already they have given their testimony and are filing kidnapping and illegal detention charges against the persons responsible for their abduction.

And so the questions abound: Did they act on their own, or are they part of a powerful network?

Were those integrees bona fide MNLF fighters integrated into the military or police forces, or were they mere impostors?

Maybe this time the truth will come out, and this could be the kidnapping that will pave the way for the eventual solution of this scourge that has caused so much misery and so much shame to the people of Sulu.

For hidden too, in this kidnapping story, is the one element that still offers hope as the saving grace of this unfortunate land and its hapless people.

Lorenzo and Ordiales were hidden in the hut of a family who they say treated them well and even offered to help them escape at the risk of their own safety, even possibly, their lives.

Incredible as this may seem to those who do not know them well, this family—ordinary countryfolk who try as best they can to eke out a living from a constantly ravaged land, yet who suffer the most collateral damage as a consequence of military operations—are the true victims of the powerful and their insatiable greed.

For what is kidnapping but just another way of satisfying, with the least effort, the lust for wealth? And wealth, in these as in other parts, is synonymous with power.

And the tragedy is that this family represents the majority, the real Tausug, the kind that we, and we hope the rest of the Filipino nation, are not giving up on.

America is in the heart

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR absence, during which I've lived continuously in the Philippines, I am back in the United States to attend the wedding of my youngest sister. She and my soon-to-be brother-in-law had announced their decision to merge their lives, for better or for worse, shortly after last year's Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Like the four million Filipinos who have made America their home, they were shaken to their roots by that horrific catastrophe brought on by the greatest danger to human civilization since Hitler, Stalin and Mao Zedong.

Despite the descriptions by some that America has turned into a police state with strict regulations at airports and public places, it took our party of four just 15 minutes to get through Immigration and Customs, mostly waiting in line. Best of all, ordinary Americans I met, a janitor, a gate guard, the rental car attendants, were friendly, amiable and welcoming in ways only a long-time previous resident here would detect as genuine and heart-felt.

Since many of my friends and relatives here know that I write for the INQUIRER, I was bombarded with incredulous demands for an explanation. How can a newspaper that helped to bring down tyrants like Marcos and an underworld thug like Erap, even give the benefit of the doubt to a scum bag like Saddam Hussein?

I said there is actually a spectrum of opinion in the newspaper. I've often written about Saddam myself, pointing out that he is a dictator who has attacked ethnic Kurds and his own Shiite Muslim people with weapons long banned by the international community and who has been playing a game of hide-and-go-seek with the United Nations' arms inspectors. But many of these folks read mainly the editorials and major columnists on the Internet, and so the general impression that seems to have come through is one of resentful anti-Americanism.

I violently disagree with this impression and stoutly defend the paper's independence. But I know where it comes from. It comes from calling the United States an aggressor in several editorials and columns, just because America is strong and defends her interests and her people like no other nation does. The impression is built by those who claim there is no evidence for Saddam's lethal danger to the whole world, when everyone knows the United Nations, not just the United States, has been engaged in an 11-year effort to find and destroy biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in Iraq. Many pundits, it seems, have not bothered to examine the mountains of evidence accumulated by the United Nations Commission (Unscom) on Iraq, which prove that Saddam has been desperately trying to get a Bomb and has manufactured tons of chemical and biological weapons of incredible destructive power. Just because they have not bothered to read the Unscom reports, does not mean the evidence does not exist. There is far less opposition to America's strident demand that Iraq disarm than some would have us believe.

I can understand the pique of Pinoys in America at those who clearly resent America and are blinded by that singularly debilitating emotion. They appreciatively remember how many of those same commentators in the Philippines "just knew" that Erap was a nasty bit from the underside of humanity, even with no evidence to depose him, despite the ignorant American and European journalists who would give Erap the benefit of the doubt and called people power against him "mob rule." But now, they are thoroughly puzzled by the seeming refusal to look at the documentary evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, controlled by Saddam, but cleverly hidden by him, and calling the effort to stop him "US aggression" and "warmongering." For those who doubt the existence of real evidence, just look up the Unscom reports at www.un.org. Only a ticking atom bomb will satisfy some, and then only if it's set to blow up in one minute, but the rest of the world cannot wait on their fecklessness.

By the way, all nations, including those who oppose the tougher resolution proposed by the United States, demand that arms inspectors be given unfettered access to all possible hiding places of these weapons in Iraq. There is special concern over the eight huge palace complexes, some as large as 10 square miles, from which they have been excluded by Saddam in contravention of several past UN resolutions. Are all these German, Russian, French, Chinese, British, Canadian, Australian and American arms inspectors stooges of the CIA or something? Or have they seen something that tells them, something preternaturally evil, this way walks, and it is driven by Saddam's hand?

In the final analysis, I think it depends on who you want to believe more, on who you actually trust more, the United States and most of the United Nations, including the unprecedented coalition of 42 countries represented at the US Central Command against Osama bin Laden, or Saddam and his backers.

It is obvious to me where the hearts of Filipinos are. They are with America, the nation that has given them hope, opportunity, freedom and prosperity. I know where my heart lies. It is with my sister and her husband, and the family and future they wish to build, which is ever endangered by the Eraps and Saddams of this unfortunate world. It is with the Filipinos in the Philippines who have overwhelmingly opposed these tyrants and demons. It is with the humanity in whose hearts, democracy and freedom shall never perish.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Coverage of UAAP basketball finals

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IT never crossed my mind that the traditional rivalry between La Salle and Ateneo in sports activities would spill over to the INQUIRER. The newspaper's coverage of the recently concluded UAAP games came under intense scrutiny by supporters of the Green Archers.

The bone of contention is the INQUIRER's Sept. 27 issue where the front page featured the photo of an Ateneo player blocking the shot of a La Salle cager that could have evened up the score. With that defensive move, Ateneo won the first of three games of the finals.

The photo occupied almost one-fourth of the front page. It overshadowed the picture of President Macapagal-Arroyo talking to the four Mindanao State University teachers who were recently released by their kidnappers.

Below the sports photo was the news report that carried the headline, "Avenging Eagles fly high, claw out Green Archers." By uncanny coincidence, the banner of the newspaper that day read "Ateneo law dean disputes SC decision," referring to the tribunal's earlier ruling canceling the bail that Rep. Mark Jimenez put up in connection with his pending extradition trial.

If not for the other non-Ateneo related stories on the front page, that issue would have looked like a supplement of "The Guidon," Ateneo's college newsletter. The Ateneo students, alumni and supporters must have enjoyed reading the newspaper that day.

As to be expected, the pro-Ateneo coverage was protested by those who consider La Salle the epitome of academic and sports excellence in our country. They sent text messages, letters and e-mail questioning the standards used by the INQUIRER in giving the Jesuit-run school such good publicity. And free of charge, at that.

Biased coverage

The letter of RBP of Iligan City illustrates the intensity of the pro-La Salle readers' sentiments on the Sept. 27 issue. He wrote: "Your newspaper made it appear that the Blue Eagles won the championship of the UAAP. Hello??? That was just Game One. Pictures and articles like those should be on the sports page, not on the front page...not unless they have already won the championship.

"Why on the front page? There are more important news in our country right now than the Blue Eagles winning Game One of the Finals. And what struck me most was the clear bias of your paper. For the past FOUR YEARS, the Green Archers were the champions of the UAAP. But not once did they appear on the front page of your paper.

"But now, here comes the Blue Eagles winning Game One and they are being praised on the front page. Is it because after 12 years the Blue Eagles finally beat La Salle twice in succession? Or is it because someone in your paper is an Atenean and just loves to boast of their small-time victory?"

The reaction of the readers whose sympathies lie with La Salle did not surprise me. The seriousness with which many of the students of these two universities take their supposedly historical adversarial condition is common knowledge.

Although on a smaller scale, they're no different from fraternity members who do not hesitate to mix it up for perceived slights or insults to the prestige of their alma maters. The annual UAAP basketball games have become regular venues for the expression of school loyalty by the students and alumni of the two religious-run learning institutions.

Newsworthy

The editor in chief said she put the news about Game One, including the dramatic photo, on the front page because she considers the event newsworthy for this basketball-crazy country. La Salle was eyeing a fifth consecutive championship. Ateneo was on the verge of gaining top UAAP cage honors after 14 long years. It was a surprising turnaround for the Blue Eagles who were almost given up for lost by their own alumni because of their earlier poor performance.

In other words, Game One of the finals had the elements of suspense and drama that qualify it for premium treatment. The same cannot be said of many championship games in the past where one team was clearly dominating, as in La Salle's case in its four other championship appearances, and the game results could be predicted with some degree of certainty.

To show that the INQUIRER is not biased in Ateneo's favor, the editor in chief said that when La Salle won Game Two, the Sept. 30 issue carried the runner (that's the headline placed at the topmost part of the newspaper) "Archers down Blue Eagles, force Saturday showdown." The accompanying photo showed an Ateneo cager trying to wiggle himself out of the tight guarding by two La Salle players.

The editor in chief promised that if La Salle wins the deciding game, the news would land on the front page. Most likely, the news would have a matching photo unless a more dramatic picture of an important event comes up.

Evaluation

I do not see anything wrong with the decision of the editor in chief to give Ateneo's victory in Game One the complained front-page treatment. The circumstances under which the Blue Eagles reached the finals and won Game One justify her action.

Although I do not have supporting proof, I think the gauntlet that Ateneo went through to get to the UAAP finals was avidly watched by thousands of Filipino basketball fans. College basketball is more exciting than the games of the commercial leagues. Unlike the professional players who play for the money, the college cagers fight for the ball for sheer love of the game and to give honor to their school.

I am no fan of Ateneo or La Salle, as I am a maroon-blooded alumnus of the University of the Philippines, but I enjoyed the treatment given by the newspaper of Game One of the UAAP finals. It was a welcome break from the almost daily fare of reports of government scandals and mudslinging by politicians. I'm sure many readers would like to see news and photos that show that there is more to life in this country than politics, politics and more politics.

If it is any comfort to the aggrieved La Salle supporters, their school and Ateneo are equally represented in the editorial staff—one each. And both had no participation at all in the choice of the news and photos for the front page of the Sept. 27 issue. The editor in chief called the shots that day with the assistance of her UP-educated editors.

Now that the UAAP finals are over, the Blue Eagles should be congratulated for the well-deserved title as the best men's basketball team of the 2002 UAAP.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readers advocate@inquirer.com.ph.

A better educated nation is crucial

LETTERS

THERE is a statement that rings so true in the column of Randy David in a recent issue of the INQUIRER. He wrote:

"...One cannot discount the role played by a growing educated middle class. The quest for a democratic and prosperous society that can offer hope to the marginalized will not be realized without the more fortunate educated class taking an active role in reconfiguring the nation's political life."

There was a time when revolts were necessary. There was a time when action had to be taken to the streets so our sentiments could be heard. There was a time when all we needed was to get out and join forces on Edsa to overthrow the person holding the highest position of power. But too much of everything is bad. And so is too much of revolts, protests and rallies.

The continuing quest for true democracy does not depend on how many times we can produce an Edsa revolution. Instead, it depends on how we can get our children a proper and appropriate education to raise themselves from poverty to awareness and concern over government issues. This role is being undertaken and led by the middle class in our society.

We live in a time where violence has become too overwhelming. What we need is an intervention that is "varied, inventive and enduring," even more than revolutions. For the youth's duty now is to stay in school, not in the streets, and educate themselves to be critical thinkers to be able to address the issue of poverty in the country by finding ways of raising the country from the political, economic and psychological dumps.

Recently in the occasion of the 30th anniversary of martial law, the Filipino people had mixed emotions and memories about that era. There were still supporters of the ideology that Marcos foisted on us, there were people traumatized by the events, there were those cursing the violence and loss of freedom. But one thing stands out: if a person had the power to change our lives and the lives of our children long after us, then it is possible to change the situation of the country if more than one had the guts.

David is right. The new kind of revolution should involve sensibility and must be enduring. What better way than educating ourselves to relieve us of the poverty that is haunting us and our children in the future? It is not enough that we go out in the streets and proclaim our rejection of the person in power, for even if we oust the person, the system still endures.

What we have to oust is the system enveloping our way of thinking. And the instrument we need is a critical education that leads to competent leadership.

**—MYLYN PINEDA, WENDY TANCINCO, 2 Albany St.,
North East Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila**

Judges killed in the line of duty

THE PHILIPPINE Judges Association (PJA), strongly condemns the senseless and brutal slaying of Judge Oscar M. Uson, Branch 52, Regional Trial Court of Tayug, Pangasinan, who was treacherously killed in an ambush perpetrated by a still unidentified gunman last Sept. 27, 2002.

The PJA strongly urges the police authorities to leave no stone unturned in identifying the assailant and arresting him. It has been noted that two other judges, Judge Ariston L. Rubio (Branch 17, RTC Batac, Ilocos Norte) and Judge Eugenio R. Valles (RTC Branch 3, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley), were earlier also killed, and it appears that justice will not be given them and their bereaved families.

The PJA calls on both houses of Congress and the executive branch to work out means of increasing death benefits to families of justices, judges and other workers in the judiciary who were killed in the line of duty.

**—MARINO M. DELA CRUZ JR.,
president, Philippine Judges
Association**

Who is the ATO chief?

THE CONTENTS of Ramon Tulfo's column on Oct. 1, 2002, titled "Quarrel at ATO affecting air safety," shows the real type of journalist Tulfo is. With a simple phone call, he could have known:

The Air Transportation Office is not a private corporation. It's an enforcement/regulatory agency headed by me as assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications. My executive director is not the president or CEO, not at the ATO. His job functions do not call for all the duties attributed to him.

Executive director Antonio A. Sanchez does not even know the chain of command, and even in his very first week in the ATO he thinks that he can do whatever the assistant secretary does, like issuing memoranda and orders without clearing with the assistant secretary. Sanchez is the one who is meddling in the powers and prerogatives of the assistant secretary so that he always gets rebuffed in his actions. Having been kicked out of the Philippine Airlines as a striker, he wants to pursue a personal vendetta against PAL. He wants to use the ATO as his tool to get even with PAL.

How can Sanchez do the day-to-day management of the ATO when he cannot be found in his office during office hours? He goes out of the Metro Manila area without even asking for permission from the assistant secretary. I cannot even fathom how he can squeeze trip pass tickets from airlines without even our knowledge.

As a former PAL pilot, Sanchez is not the epitome of safety, which Tulfo is trying to portray. He was involved as a pilot-in-command in PAL aircraft accidents and was discharged dishonorably from PAL. I don't know how he managed to squeeze back into PAL.

For the record also, I am a retired major general in the Philippine Air Force. I was the PAF vice commander when I opted for early retirement. I held the position of director for operational readiness and evaluation and flight safety for the period 1989-1993; commandant, PAF Flying School, Fernando Air Base from 1993-1996; deputy wing commander, 100th Training Wing from 1995-1996; wing commander of the 5th Fighter Wing at Basa Air Base; commander, Air Defense Command; vice commander, PAF at the time of retirement on March 16, 2001.

Mr. Tulfo, who is more competent as air safety supervisor? You should not take the word of just one side. Bother to check the other side, too.

The Toronto, Canada plane ticket accusation is a rehash of an old accusation bereft of truth. I never asked to be reimbursed for any travel expense incurred. I spent 33 years in the Air Force handling thousands of men, managing equipment and resources, and I have never been charged with any irregularity whatsoever. I intend to maintain my integrity and honor as an officer and a gentleman.

**—MAJ. GEN. ADELBERTO F. YAP
(ret.), assistant secretary,
Air Transportation Office,
MIA Road, Pasay City**

CE Casecnan clarifies issues raised

CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co. Inc. (CE Casecnan) wishes to respond to the issues raised in the letter of the Freedom From Debt Coalition's Lidy Nacpil (PDI, 9/3/02) regarding the Casecnan project.

The water and energy tariff rates agreed upon by the Philippines and CE Casecnan are net of all taxes, with the exception of corporate income taxes, withholding taxes on dividends remitted by CE Casecnan to shareholders overseas, and taxes and fees paid in association with the preparation of an environmental study. In the BOT Project Agreement, CE Casecnan and the National Irrigation Administration agreed that the latter would reimburse or otherwise provide payment to CE Casecnan for all other taxes, as provided for in Article 11 of the Project Agreement.

If the NIA elects not to pay CE Casecnan, those taxes for which NIA has the option of providing direct reimbursement, or if CE Casecnan is required to pay the other taxes with respect to which the NIA does not have the option of direct reimbursement, the water delivery fee is increased by $0.00043 for every US$1 million in taxes paid by CE Casecnan.

After nine months of good faith negotiations, in May 2002 CE Casecnan and the NIA signed an agreement that reduced the NIA's outstanding liability from approximately US$877 million to $131 million, payable in 2002. The government based its offer of $131 million on what it considers to be a reasonable rate of return (17.93 percent) on the funds CE Casecnan invested into the project in the form of tax advances.

Regrettably, the agreement was not implemented due to the lack of approval from the Neda-ICC and the IPP Inter-Agency Review Committee. In light of this and after all efforts to amicably resolve this issue have been exhausted, CE Casecnan was left with no other choice but to submit the dispute to international arbitration. CE Casecnan filed its request for arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 19, 2002.

The primary purpose of the Casecnan Project—to further the development of the Philippine agricultural sector and improve the welfare of the Filipino farmer—has been lost in the discussion. Even while this world-class project is being attacked by some quarters, it continues to deliver valuable irrigation water for the use of farmers in Central Luzon and sufficient electricity to power 350,000 homes.

**—DAVID A. BALDWIN,
president, CE Casecnan
Water and Energy Co.,
24th Floor, 6750 Ayala Ave.,
Makati City**

Amnesty grantees not being liquidated

WE refer to a news item that was published in your paper last Sept. 3, 2002, titled "Ex-rebel shot dead" wherein the victim, Gerardo B. Espinas Sr., was said to be an amnesty grantee. A verification of our records show that the victim was not an applicant for amnesty, much less a grantee of our commission.

We are greatly concerned by the report that amnesty grantees have been targeted for liquidation by their former comrades in the underground movement. Our verification shows that this is not the case.

**—ALFREDO F. TADIAR,
chair, National Amnesty
Commission, 4th Floor
Golden Sun Realty Bldg. II,
Mindanao Avenue
corner Alley 14, Pag-asa,
Quezon City**

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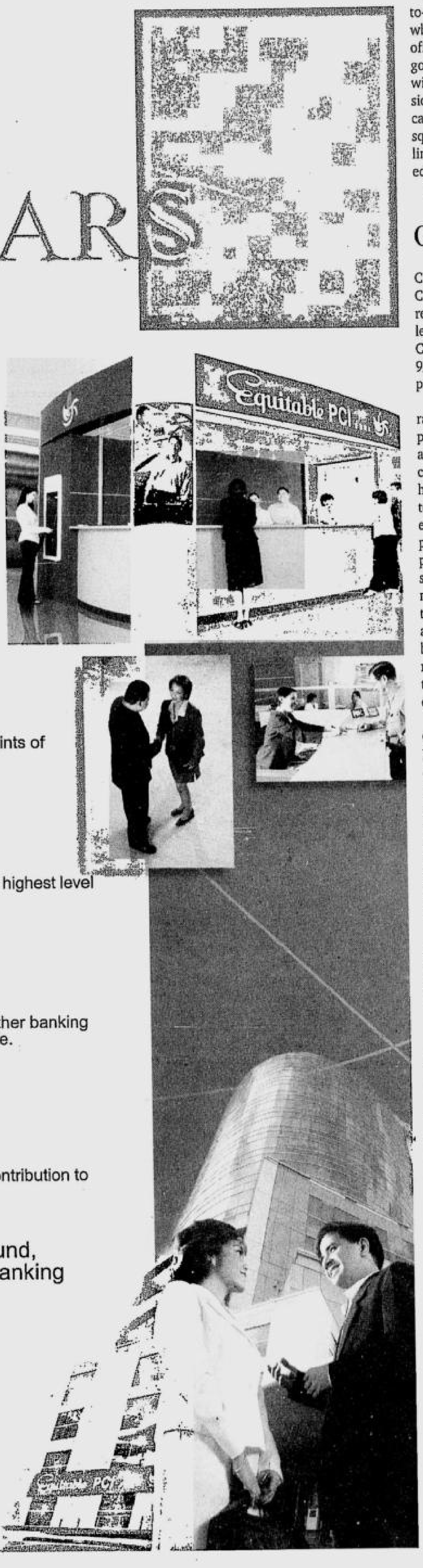

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Malaysia raps US, West at Asia forum

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia rebuked the United States over Iraq on Sunday and rapped the West in general for pushing a globalization agenda damaging to developing nations.

Opening the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum East Asia, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi lambasted Washington's goal of a change of regime in Baghdad.

"One nation cannot demand that another change its government—or else," said Abdullah, whose government's views reflect wider Muslim anger with US policy toward Iraq and Israel.

"No nation has the right to wage war on another without the authorization of the United Nations' Security Council," he said in a paper delivered at the outset of the three-day meeting.

Abdullah labelled as "totally undemocratic" the United Nation's veto system, which allows any of the five permanent members of the Security Council to block a resolution.

"It places the fate of world peace and global justice sometimes in the hand of one solitary nation, acting in defiance of the wishes of the vast majority," he said.

In February, Malaysia takes over chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, grouping 114 developing nations, and hopes to rekindle some fire in an organization which lost its spark after the Cold War ended more than a decade ago.

Abdullah, who will succeed Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in late 2003, branded the West's domination of the world's financial and trading systems "the dark side of globalization."

He said trade and investment rules were skewed in favor of Western industrial nations, in remarks that echoed Mahathir's frequent tirades against Western hegemony.

With Europe and North America having already formed trade blocs, Asian countries are slowly coming closer together, with the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations seeking stronger trade ties with China, Japan and Korea.

They are also exploring the possibility of setting up an Asian International Monetary Fund and have agreed a network to lend each other foreign exchange in times of crisis.

Abdullah warned that under the current global system more developing nations could follow Argentina into crisis. "On the basis now of what is happening in South America that certainly gives us some concern," he told a news conference. "We are worried because the situation is volatile."

Abdullah's attack of the "Washington consensus" and global institutions will strike a chord with protesters who have demonstrated at IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organization and World Economic Forum events.

Just last month, police arrested around 650 protesters trying to disrupt and IMF and World Bank meeting in Washington, while 2,500 marched in protest at the Forum's European Summit in the Austrian city of Salzburg. *Reuters*

US sees Saddam's ouster before attack

WASHINGTON—US intelligence experts believe that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will be ousted by members of his inner circle before US forces launch a major ground attack, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Faced with a US military assault and the choice of either being Saddam's successors or being imprisoned or killed in the fighting, top-ranking military officers or senior Iraqi officials likely will try to eliminate the Iraqi leader, several current and former US officials and intelligence experts told the daily.

"Someone will take action and cause it to happen," said one former high-ranking CIA officer.

Senior US officials, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, have recently spoken publicly about Iraqis eliminating Saddam themselves, either through assassination or by sending him into exile.

Late last week, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer made similar comments.

"The cost of a one-way ticket is substantially less than (the cost of war)," Fleischer said.

"The cost of one bullet, if the Iraqi people take it on themselves, is substantially less than that," he said at a press briefing late last week.

Earlier this year, US President George W. Bush directed the CIA to undertake a comprehensive covert program to topple the Iraqi leader, including authority to use lethal force.

The intelligence agency was instructed to increase support for and contacts with opposition groups inside and outside Iraq, and to expand efforts to collect intelligence about pockets of anti-Saddam sentiment within the Iraqi government, military and intelligence services, the Post wrote. *AFP*

FBI probes hundreds of Muslims

WASHINGTON—The FBI is investigating hundreds of people—mostly young Muslim men—in an effort to uncover al-Qaida-trained terrorists operating in the United States, the New York Times reported Sunday.

Senior law enforcement officials told the daily the surveillance campaign was being carried out by every major office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States.

The effort involves 24-hour monitoring of suspects' telephone calls, e-mail messages, Internet use, credit card charges, their travel and their visits to neighborhood gathering places, including mosques, the daily reported. *AFP*

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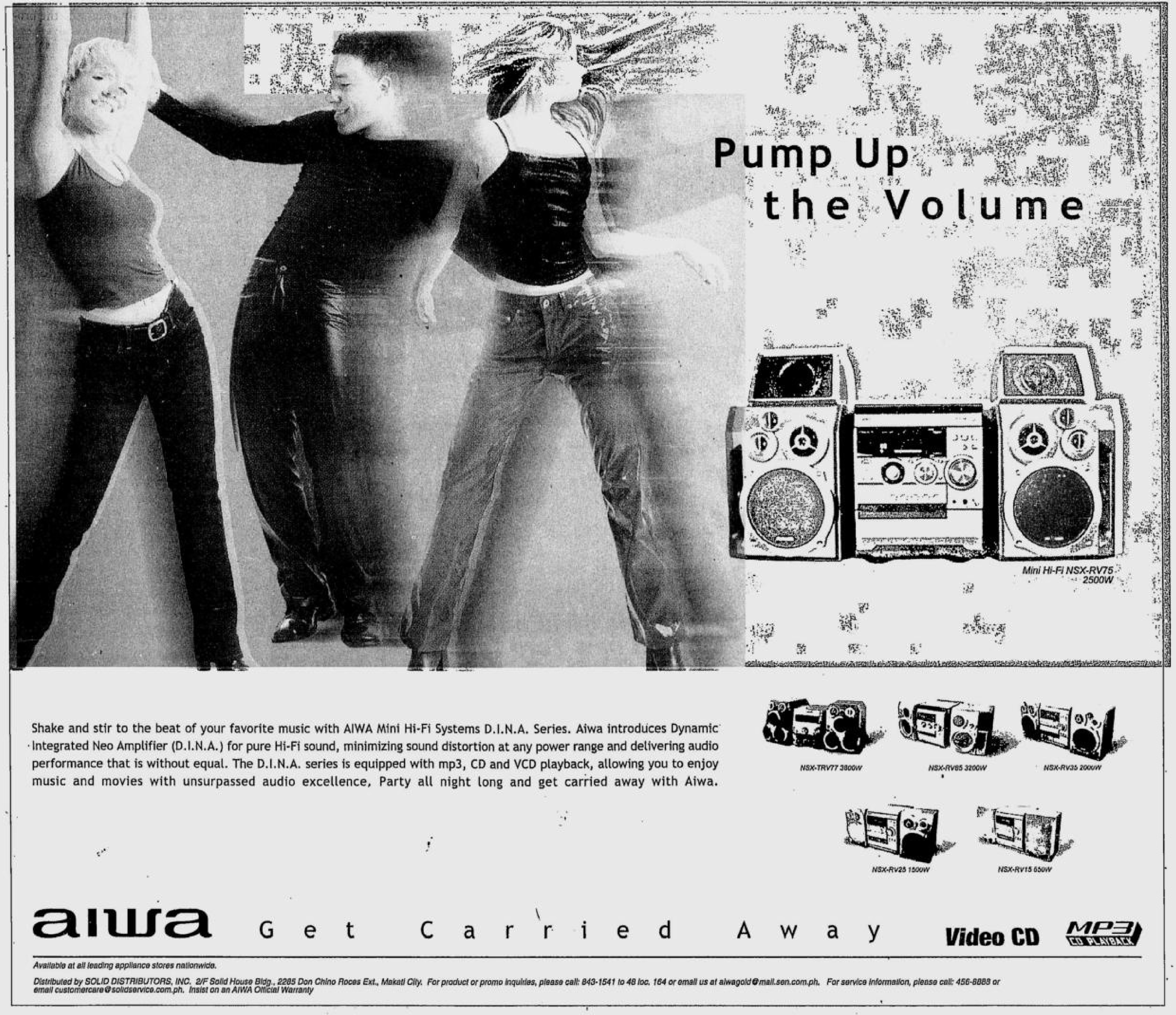

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DELAYED GRATIFICATION REUTERS

A MAN looks at dresses worn by sex workers on the opening day of the new Museum of Sex in New York on Oct. 5. In a case of delayed gratification for those keen to check out the museum, it finally opened its doors after putting off its much-anticipated opening for a week due to construction delays.

Nepal king assures he'll give up power

KATMANDU—Nepal's King Gyanendra does not intend to hold on to power beyond a five-day deadline he has set for the formation of an interim government after dismissing the prime minister, a palace official said on Sunday.

"His majesty has to form a new government. He has no intention of keeping executive power with himself. It is not a coup," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

The king would go ahead and form an interim government and hand over power even if political parties refused to nominate candidates for such an administration by Wednesday, when the deadline expired, the official added.

"Anyway a situation where we don't have a government is only for five days and after that there will be a government. It will be in charge of executive power and security as well," the official said.

A palace spokesperson said he had no information on the king's plans beyond Friday's announcement. "What his majesty has said in his announcement is quite clear," he said.

The king assumed executive power after sacking Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba who had said threats by Maoist rebels to sabotage elections set for November were too grave to allow voting and had sought a year's delay.

The insurgency has claimed at least 5,000 lives since 1996. Some 3,000 of them have died since last November after the rebels walked out of peace talks and stepped up attacks. The king's decision has been branded by mainstream political parties as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The parties, plagued by bitter leadership rivalries, are struggling to forge a common strategy in response to the king's action.

They are yet to react to the king's appeal to nominate candidates, who will not contest elections, to form an interim administration which will be responsible for security and hold elections.

"The timeframe for the new government has been clearly set," the palace official said. "The ball is now in the court of the political parties. They have to decide if they want to cooperate and take the train on the right track. If they don't his majesty will anyway go ahead and appoint an interim government within six or seven days of his announcement (on Friday)."

The official said the king stepped in and dismissed Deuba as the prime minister sought to extend his stay in power without holding elections in November.

He said the king asked Deuba to resign so that it would allow the formation of a national government of all parties.

But Deuba refused to quit, forcing the king's hand.

When asked by Reuters what the king had conveyed to him ahead of his dismissal, Deuba said: "I was told many things even before yesterday, but I did not resign."

The palace official said Deuba lost his right to be in power after he recommended the postponement of the election as the country's constitution stipulated elections must be held within six months of parliament being dissolved.

Deuba had said his sacking by the king was undemocratic and unconstitutional. *Reuters*

Brazil makes history in electronic polls

BRASILIA, Brazil—Brazilians vote for a new president on Sunday in the most hotly contested election since its return to democracy and one which could have repercussions throughout Latin America and beyond.

A bearded former metalworker, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, will make history if he turns his large lead in polls into an outright victory to become the first president from Brazil's working class and the first elected leftist leader.

Though a Lula win might bring hope to the millions of Brazilians who live in poverty, the prospect has already unsettled financial players in Brazil and on Wall Street.

On the eve of election day, Workers' Party leader Lula had reached 50 percent support in a top poll. If he can win a clear majority, he will grab an outright victory and avoid a runoff on Oct. 27.

Over 115 million voters in the world's fourth largest democracy will vote, from the vast Amazon basin in the north to the sprawling industrial cities of the south. They will also make history.

All votes will be punched in to 406,000 computerized ballot boxes—some of them powered by car batteries in jungle areas—in what has been billed as the biggest electronic election in the world.

In the beach city of Rio de Janeiro, 40,000 soldiers and police have been called in to protect voters after drug lords threatened to stop slum dwellers from voting in their struggle for power with the state government.

It is the fourth time Brazilians will elect their president since the end of the 1964-1985 military dictatorship. Lula has come in second in the three previous elections.

Chief among the problems for Brazilians are unemployment, rising crime and one of the world's worst disparities between rich and poor, a country where gleaming condominiums overlook desperate slums.

But for investors who have poured money into Brazil under the free-market policies of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the concern is over Lula's ability to run the world's ninth largest economy saddled with a $260-billion debt.

At a time of economic trouble elsewhere in Latin America, what happens in its biggest country is vital for regional stability.

Policymakers across Latin America and in Washington are keeping an eye on a vote that will gauge the country's acceptance of the open-market reforms that were implemented across the region in the past decade.

Brazil's markets tumbled over the last six months as Lula forged ahead in the polls over investors' favorite Jose Serra, the candidate of the ruling coalition. But lately there have been signs that investors are resigned to a Lula government. *Reuters*

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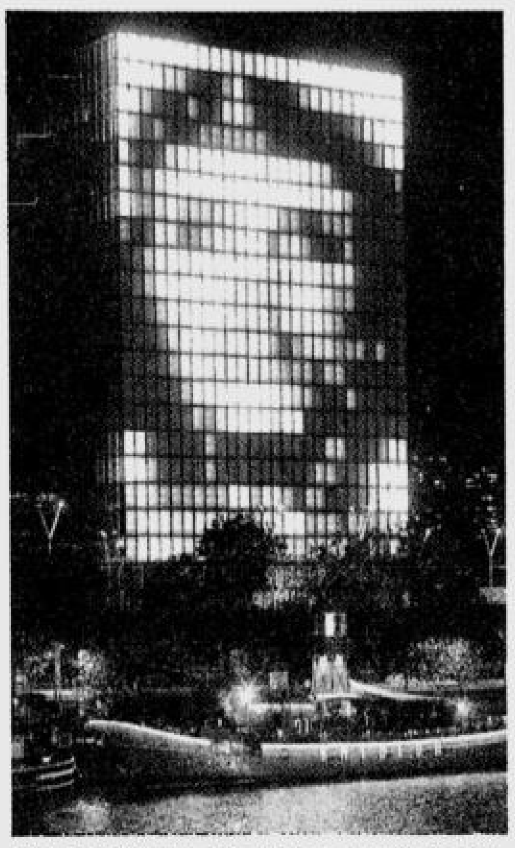


THE PORTRAIT of the Cuban guerilla leader Che Guevara is seen on the facade of the National Library of France on Oct. 5, 2002, as part of the "Nuit Blanche" or "Sleepless Night," an all-night festival of partying and art from Saturday to Sunday. AP

Paris mayor stabbed once during concert

PARIS—Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe was stabbed in the abdomen early Sunday during the "Sleepless Night" concert at City Hall but the injury was not life-threatening, officials said.

Delanoe was rushed by ambulance to a Paris hospital after an attacker lunged at him with a knife and slashed him once during an all-night party featuring champagne and music at the elegant Hotel de Ville, officials said.

Delanoe underwent three hours of surgery and was transferred to a postoperative recovery room shortly before 7 a.m., according to a statement issued by Pitie-Salpetriere hospital in Paris.

Hospital spokesperson Thierry Meresse said Delanoe would remain hospitalized Sunday but declined to give details about the surgery other than to say that an unspecified number of abdominal lesions were "successfully treated." Police said Delanoe sustained one stab wound.

France Info radio reported that a 39-year-old man with a criminal record was taken into custody after the 2:30 a.m. attack and was being questioned by police. The motive was not immediately known. LCI television reported that the suspect would undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

The attack was the second in less than three months against a prominent French politician. On July 14, a man allegedly tried to shoot President Jacques Chirac as he was reviewing troops at the annual Bastille Day military parade in Paris. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

HK bishop under fire

HONG KONG—Local Beijing supporters have accused Hong Kong's new Catholic leader of provoking public unrest with his fiery criticisms of an anti-subversion law recently proposed by the government, a newspaper reported Sunday. In a radio interview Saturday, outspoken Bishop Joseph Zen said the proposed legislation would harm Hong Kong's autonomy, which was guaranteed for 50 years under an arrangement dubbed "one country, two systems" when the territory returned to China in 1997. Zen also said he would follow his conscience and was prepared to go to jail for disobeying any law he felt was unjust. Hitting back at Zen, Yeung Yiu-chung, a local deputy in the Chinese National People's Congress, said Zen's remarks would only "intensify social conflict" and lead to chaos, the pro-Beijing Wen Wei Po newspaper reported Sunday. ***AP***

Pakistan elections

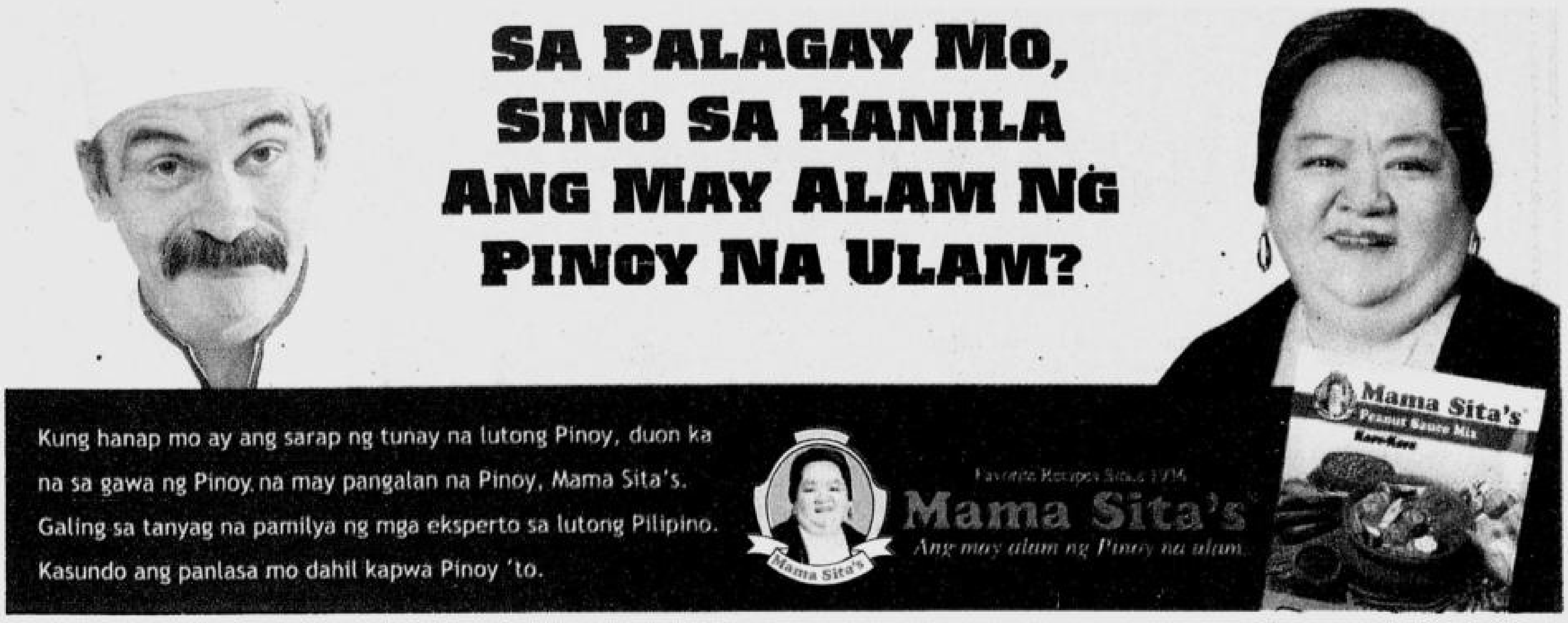
ISLAMABAD—Pakistani voters are divided over whether Thursday's polls will be fair, but a majority hold a favorable view of President Pervez Musharraf and his military government, a survey here said. The survey predicts around 42 percent of the 72 million registered voters will cast their ballots, despite a low key campaign in the absence of traditional rivals Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, who are both banned from running and live in exile. Voter turnout in the previous elections in 1997 was a scant 36 percent. ***AFP***

AIDS in China

KUALA LUMPUR—Ten million Chinese could be infected with the AIDS virus within 10 years, UN AIDS chief Peter Piot said Sunday. Despite a major anti-AIDS campaign launched by the Chinese government last November there was still ignorance and denial of the problem, particularly at the provincial level, and "it's time to get real about it," Piot said. "I am convinced that without major efforts not only in the government but also in societies at large, it could easily go up to 10 million Chinese infected within the next five to 10 years," he told a news conference on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's East Asia summit here. ***AFP***

Massacre recalled

BANGKOK—Thai activists Sunday urged the government to make an official expression of regret over the massacre of scores of students during a 1976 mass political demonstration. Describing the incident as a "crime carried out by the state," leading commentator Ji Ungphakorn said that recognizing the violent suppression would be an important human rights landmark for Thailand. ***AFP***



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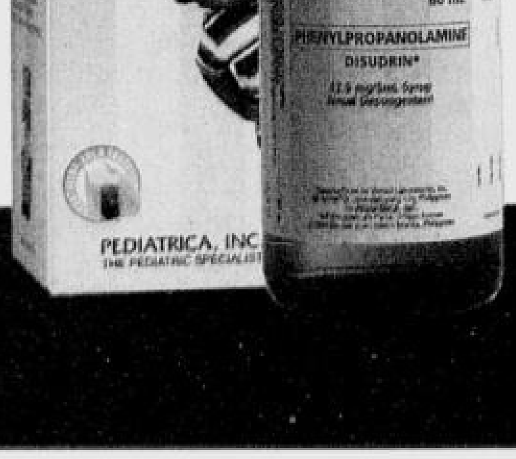

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NPA shadow gov'ts in Samar bared

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The New People's Army has set up provisional governments in at least seven towns in Samar.

This was disclosed by an Army colonel during the recent meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council in Catbalogan, Samar, according to the Philippine Information Agency provincial office based in that town.

The Army got this information from documents found in an abandoned NPA camp near the town proper of Catbalogan that the military recently discovered, Lt. Col. Romeo Gapuz was quoted by the PIA as saying.

Gapuz, commanding officer of the Army's 34th Infantry Battalion based in San Jorge, Samar, said these seven towns are among the 17 towns that the Army has earlier categorized as NPA-infiltrated.

Gapuz, however, did not reveal the names of the towns, saying their disclosure would be premature since the Army is still waiting for an official report. He did not elaborate.

It was also not clear if the shadow governments set up by the communist rebels in the seven towns cover the entire municipality or only some of the villages.

Early this year, the military reported that as of the first quarter of this year some 100 barangays in Samar, 94 in Northern Samar and 53 in Eastern Samar are NPA-infiltrated.

In Samar, Calbiga town has the most number of NPA-infiltrated villages at 16, followed by San Jose de Buan town with 14 and Basey town, 13.

The hastily abandoned camp that Gapuz mentioned during the PPOC meeting was discovered by soldiers early morning of Aug. 14. Actually it is located near Sitio Peqa, Barangay San Andres, Catbalogan, which is just 12 kilometers away from the town proper.

According to the military, the camp has two bedrooms and a big kitchen area and could accommodate at least 15 persons. It also has several exit points.

Recovered inside the camp were a caliber .22 revolver, cassette recorder, diskettes, compact discs, cellular phone charger and some communist documents of high intelligence value, among others, the military said.

In Leyte, meanwhile, at least a company of the Army's Special Forces has joined in the pursuit operations against suspected NPA members who ambushed a group of soldiers last Sept. 20 in Barangay Mabuhay, Mahaplag town.

Four Scout Rangers were killed and three other soldiers were wounded in the ambush staged by some 50 rebels.

According to reports, the Special Forces group was sent by the Army's higher headquarters and arrived here last Sept. 22. But the military here refused to disclose the exact number and mission of the Special Forces.

Capt. Constancio Espina II, spokesperson of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, clarified in a radio interview that the coming of the Special Forces does not mean that the military in Eastern Visayas cannot anymore handle the insurgency problem in the region.

Espina explained that one Army battalion in Samar has been sent a few months ago to Mindanao. The region needs more troops as a replacement.

Residents buck military stations in Tarlac villages

TARLAC CITY—Images of martial law flashed in the minds of villagers here as helicopters buzzed overhead and foot soldiers searched houses almost every night.

Ten barangays here became virtual military barracks as special operations teams of the Armed Forces started setting up stations in barangay halls, multipurpose halls and day-care centers. Each team has around 10 fully armed men.

Residents of Barangays Trinidad, Buhilit, Bora, San Pascual, Banaba, Balingcanaway, Villa Bacolor, Sapang Maragul, Care and Matatalaib said they were being harassed by the soldiers who went house to house asking if they were harboring communist insurgents.

"There are helicopters flying day and night and you can see a box-type monitor with lights in it and the children are very afraid," said a resident of Barangay Bora.

The city council and people's groups said they are against the "militarization" of these barangays as this constitutes harassment.

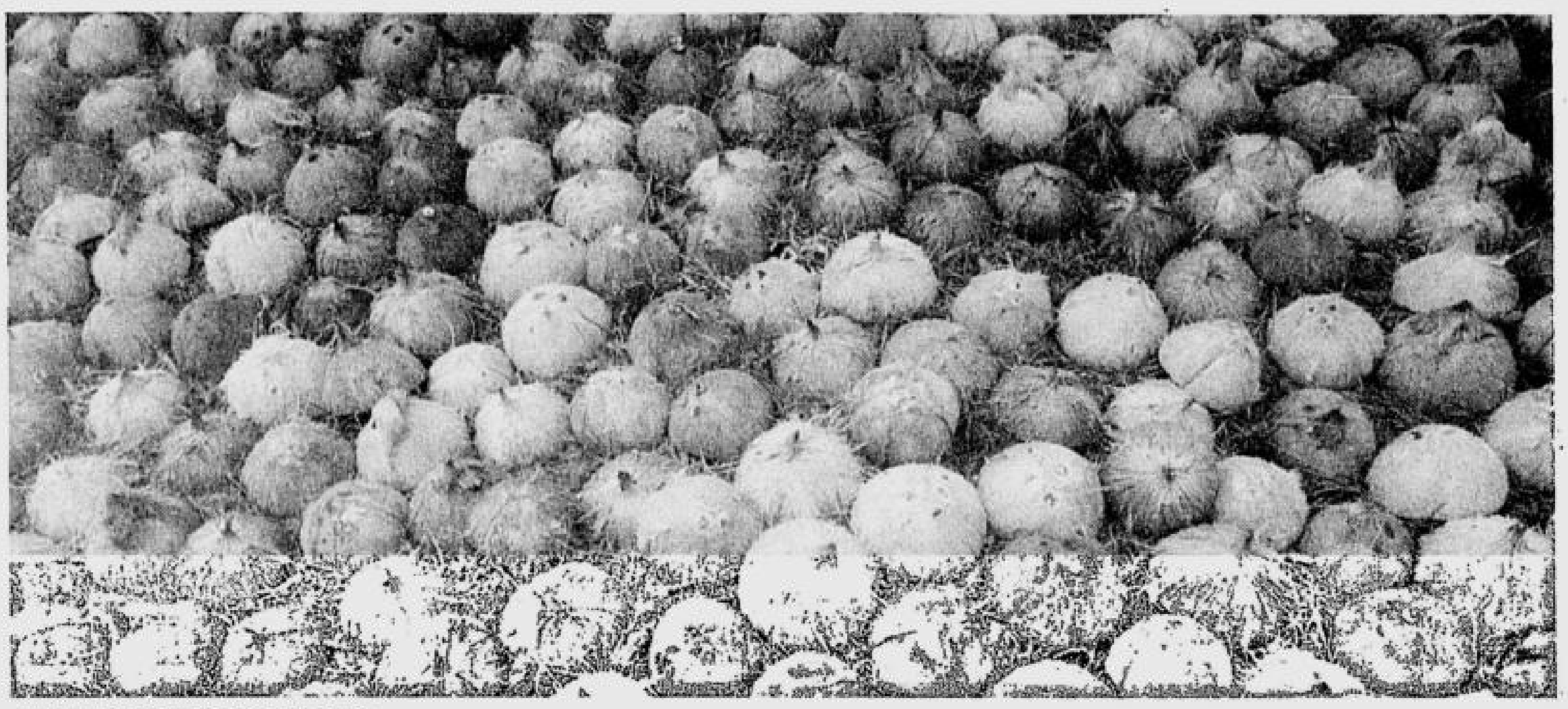
Many residents see the teams as the realization of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat Laban sa Kahirapan (Kalahi).

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Alyansang Magsasaka ng Tarlac see Kalahi as "anti-people and anti-farmers." These groups say Kalahi is Ms Macapagal's version of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' New Society, and that her political program of a "strong republic" replicates that of martial rule.

Eliseo Cadiang of Bayan compared the military deployment in Tarlac City with that of martial law rule under Marcos.

He also said Mayor Genaro Mendoza allowed the military to operate here. Mendoza, however, denied this.

"The military is conducting mapping operations, barangay census and foot patrols at night, terrorizing barrio folk and disrupting their economic activities . . . Its virtual martial rule not only in the nine barangays but also in the nearby villages where military foot patrols are conducted," Cadiang said. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ABUNDANT RESOURCES
Coconut shells are lined up for drying in Polomolok, South Cotabato.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Lawmaker joins fray vs PNP control transfer

NAGA CITY—A Bicolano lawmaker, who is a younger brother of a presidential timber, has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of politicking after issuing Memorandum Order 77 that implies control of local chief executives over the Philippine National Police.

Rep. Sulpicio Roco Jr., younger brother of former Education Secretary Raul Roco who is a top contender to the presidential post in 2004, said the order is clearly a political move to win over local chief executives.

The younger Roco said the president could not just implement the order without legislative action because it will affect the organic law that established the PNP.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's political moves were obvious in several of her actions that include the awarding of a post that will oversee the tobacco tax fund to Chavit Singson.

Roco added that the move was political in preparation for President Macapagal-Arroyo's bid to seek people's mandate in the 2004 presidential elections. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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CRIME OF PASSION?

Woman who accused Cebu assistant prosecutor dies

CEBU CITY—After two days of fighting for her life, Cherry Augusto died Saturday night in what police dubbed as a "crime of passion."

Cherry, 24, whose life has became an open book since she accused Cebu City's assistant prosecutor Mary Ann Castro of having an affair with her husband, was shot in the head on Thursday afternoon on the ground floor of the Sabanal Apartment in Barangay Pusok, Lapulapu City.

She had been in coma until she expired at 8:25 p.m. at the Intensive Care Unit of the Mactan Community Hospital.

Police pointed to SPO1 Clementino Dulguime Jr. of the Cebu City police as her assailant. Dulguime, said to be Cherry's spurned suitor, was found dead also with a bullet wound in the head on the second floor of the same apartment.

Police theorized that Dulguime shot Cherry in a fit of jealousy on Thursday afternoon after he read local newspapers' report that she had reconciled with her husband Zandro. On the same day, it was reported that Cherry had withdrawn the immorality charges she had filed against Castro.

Police based their conclusion on the statement of Cherry's housemaid, Noraden Ruiz, who revealed that Dulguime went to the Sabanal Apartment at 10 a.m. on Thursday wanting to see Cherry. He stayed on even if Cherry ignored him.

At past 1 p.m. Ruiz said she and Cherry got ready to leave for Cebu City and saw Dulguime still in the living room. Ruiz said she was out of the door ahead of Cherry when she heard two shots. She was about to go back in when she saw Cherry's body sprawled on the floor while Dulguime was holding his gun.

"I got scared so I ran for safety," the maid said in her statement. A few seconds later, she said she heard a third gunshot.

"I did not see the shooting but I believe he shot her because there was nobody else there. They were alone in the house," Ruiz' statement, in Cebuano, said.

Police were still waiting for the result of the ballistic tests done on the .38 caliber revolver of Dulguime and the slugs recovered from the crime scene.

But police theorized that the first shot hit the door, as a bullet was found embedded on the front door. The third shot that Ruiz heard could have been the one Dulguime fired to kill himself.

Cherry's sister, Elvie Bosalo, said Duilguime has been doggedly pursuing Cherry but they were not lovers as earlier speculated by Cherry's husband.

Cherry's body will be shipped today to her hometown, Butuan City. She left behind a four-year-old son.*Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

GMA opens Bicol port

LEGAZPI CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday encouraged local government units and non-governmental groups to engage in small- and medium scale business enterprises focusing on only one product, as part of the government's campaign of "one town, one product."

In a meeting with Bicolano political leaders and village officials in Barangay Pantao, Libon, Albay, the President also gave her firm commitment to the construction of the P300-million Pantao Port, Bicol's regional port.

Despite her doctor's advise to take rest, the Chief Executive made good her promise to the Bicolanos to join them in the first-ever Pantao Port Summit initiated by Albay's Third District Rep. Joey Salceda.

She awarded 115 fishnets to local fisherfolk, each amounting to P3,500 and a mobile clinic called "Clinica ni Gloria" to the local government of Libon.

She also distributed three checks, each worth P200,000, to the three hospitals in the province's third district.

She turned over a patrol boat from the Department of Agriculture to the task force created to fight illegal fishing in Libon and coastal waters.

Ms Macapagal said the first phase of the Pantao regional port is expected to be completed in November to accommodate at least two ships. The second phase is projected to be finished next year and could cater to about five ships.

Philippine Ports Authority regional manager Alex Cruz said P82.7 million has been initially allocated for the start of the construction. The fund came from the PPA corporate funds, he said. *Ronnie Lorejo and Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Amok kills soldier

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit ran amok killing an Army sergeant and a fellow militiaman just outside an Army camp in Malapatan, Sarangani last week.

The suspect was identified as Grafilo Baguio, 27, who was undergoing a military refresher's course training when the incident happened.

Baguio admitted during an interview with reporters that he could no longer endure the physical abuses inflicted on him by his training officer.

The suspect killed Sgt. Democrito Rinos, a member of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion, and Dario Eturma, a Cafgu member, using his M-14 rifle.

He claimed that during the latest training session, Rinos roughed him up prompting him to retaliate by killing the Army sergeant.

Baguio, who was then manning the 27th IB detachment in Malapatan, fired at the approaching vehicle carrying the two victims. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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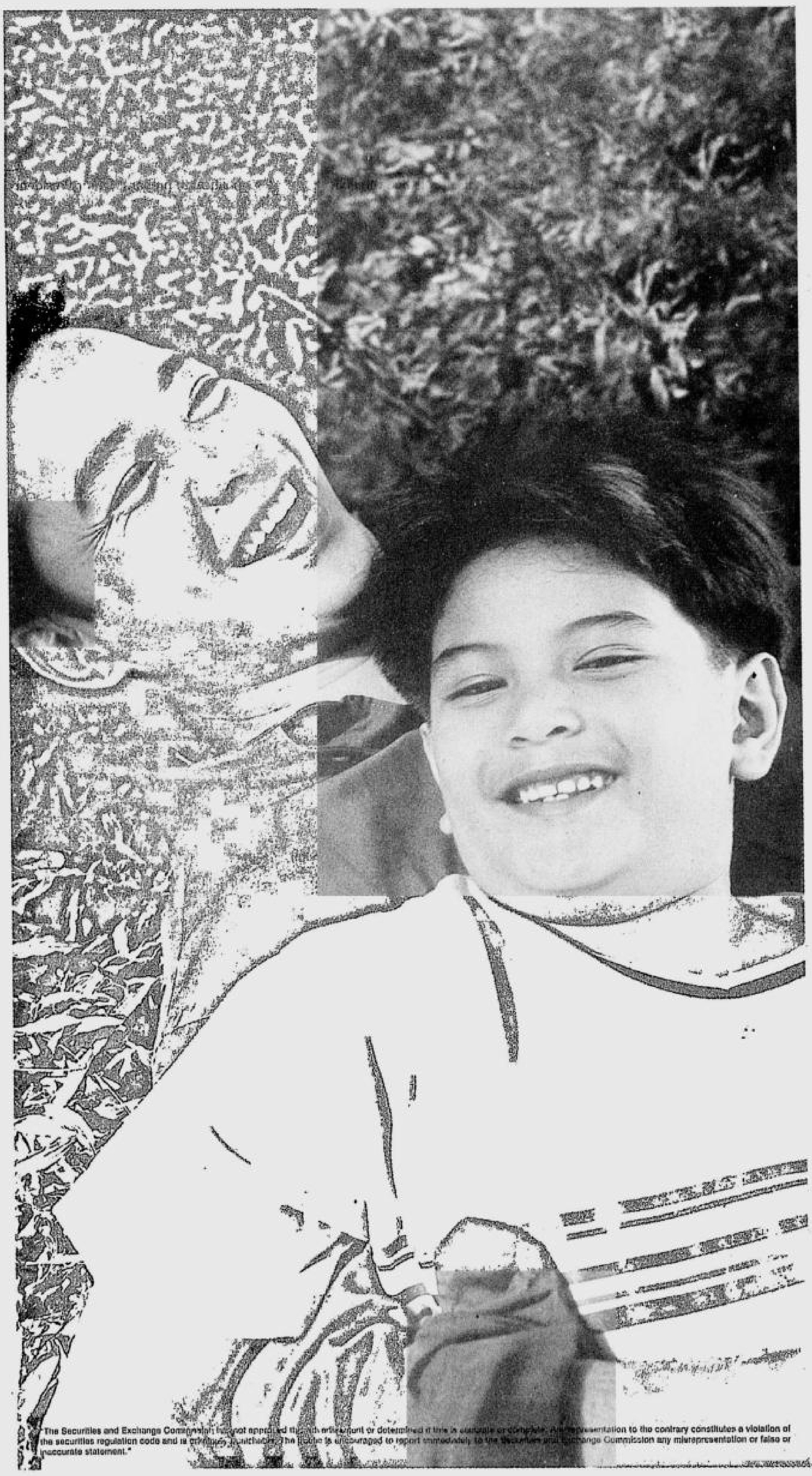

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Pinoys neglect environmental protection, says group

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A five-man team of environmentalists, which sailed from Sta. Ana town in Cagayan Valley docked here after 77-days with the grim news of how environmental conservation and protection are fast becoming lost in the vocabulary of Filipinos.

The team, led by broadcast journalist Vic Milan, used a 32-foot long wooden banca (outrigger boat) carved out of a tree from the Sierra Madre. The wooden banca, christened the Kalikasan Vigilante, sailed the 3,000-kilometer stretch of the Philippine Sea from Sta. Ana on July 18.

The team anchored at the Macajalar Bay here the other day with bad news outweighing the good news.

Milan, who is also a staunch environmentalist, said they went out to sea to assess the environment and discover new tourist destinations.

The four other members of the team were Ariel de los Reyes, the banca's captain; Jose Mojares, assistant captain; Jasper Manlapaz, photographer; and Eduardo Enriquez, videographer.

Milan said they documented how man would harm nature.

"Minutes before we sailed from Sta. Ana, we saw a bloated fish and when we landed in a nearby island the fisherfolk told us that it was poisoned," Milan said.

The community told the team that the fishermen use mothballs for good catch.

Fishermen place mothballs inside the bellies of 200 "galunggong" and drop it in the waters as bait. The big fishes then snap the bait, get suffocated by the chemicals in the mothballs and eventually float in the waters.

The floating ocean creatures would then be literally harvested.

Milan said the usual reason given was that there is little to catch using the conventional method.

He said the practice was unchecked.

"In Sta. Ana, a Navy Compound has no patrol boat. How could it possibly go after illegal fishing activities?" Milan asked.

He said this incapability by authorities could have driven Chinese poachers to lord it over in the waters of Cagayan Valley.

Milan said they saw at least three Taiwanese fishing vessels but nobody was coming to check on them.

In Ilocos Norte, he said they found an uninhabited island with pristine waters and beautiful beach. The island could likely become another tourist destination.

But dynamite fishing has ruined the island's potentials, he said.

"We found out that the frequent dynamite fishing has discouraged tourists from going there due to the deafening explosion," Milan said.

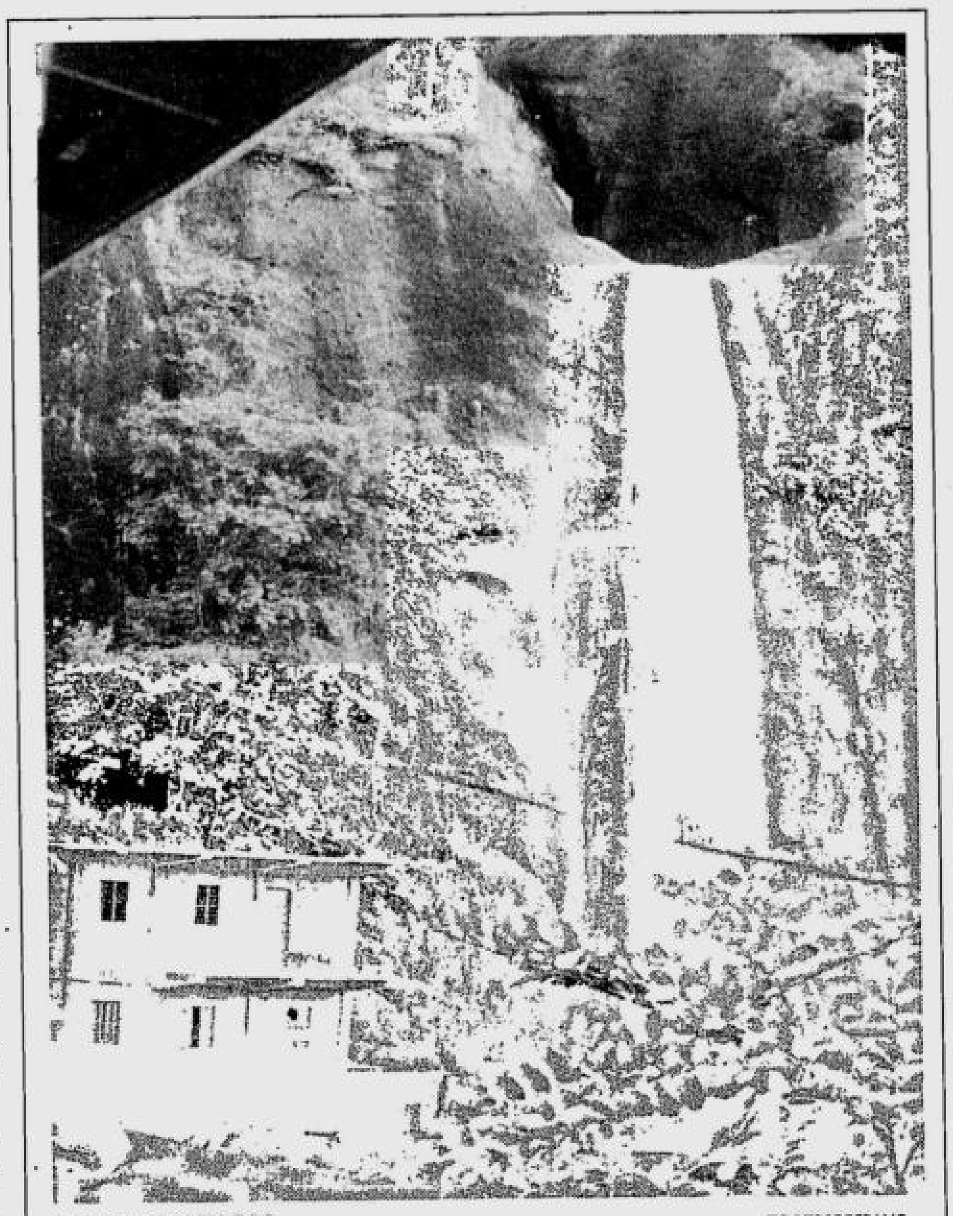
These were only a few of the encounters that Milan wanted to impart and to post as challenge on the Filipinos.

He said the people could make a difference even how small they may regard themselves for as long as they work together to protect the environment.

Milan also vowed to send footages to government officials including the President "for whatever worth they have."

"Whether they will act on it or not, everything still remains to be seen," he said.

The group has sailed for Zamboanga City and expects to get more news, whether these are bad or good.



TOOTS SOBERANO

OBSTRUCTION
The most scenic waterfall along Kennon Road is obstructed by this house.

ROUNDUP

Village chair slain

CABANATUAN CITY—A barangay captain and the chief of his barangay *tanod* (village guards) were killed while another was wounded when they were ambushed in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija on Thursday. Mayor Jimmy Domingo identified the victims as Antonio Valle, 38, chief of Barangay Dolores, and Armando Santos, head of the village's security force. Wounded was Virgilio Santos, a member of the Dolores Village security group and brother of Armando. Another *tanod* escaped unhurt. Domingo said Valle and the three village security officers were on their barangay patrol vehicle on their way home when they were attacked aboard an owner-type jeep. Valle's group came from a court hearing at Barangay Baloc in Sto. Domingo, 25 km northwest of this city. Police have yet to establish the motive of the attack. Sources in Sto. Domingo said a personal grudge against Valle could have triggered the attack. The sources said Valle was pursuing various cases that he filed in court against several people in the town.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 militiamen slain

DAVAO CITY—Two members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were killed while two others were wounded in an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Sitio Pispisan, Barangay Gumitan in Kapalong, Davao del Norte on Saturday. Col. Pedro Curva, chief of the 701st Infantry Brigade, identified the slain Cafgu members as brothers Baal and Tanasang Bongot. Wounded were Mandianap Mamat-aw and Lauro Ogaril. Curva said several Cafgu members were patrolling in the area Saturday morning when they chanced upon the rebels.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dengue outbreak

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The city government has declared the city under a state of calamity following a dengue outbreak that hospitalized at least 125 residents. The move would enable the city government to use its calamity fund to buy fogging machines and chemicals. Dr. Eriberto Policar, regional health director, urged residents to clean their houses and remove all breeding places of mosquitoes like old tires, tin cans, flower vases and idle containers. ***Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gov't lays off workers

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The mandatory cut of 25 percent of budgetary allocation of government offices and agencies has forced several offices to lay off their personnel. The Department of Health has removed 89 workers while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has dismissed all its casual employees. Guerrero Cirilo, Department of Labor and Employment chief in Cagayan Valley, said the budgetary cut might deprive 8,000 poor but deserving students of assistance under its special program for employment of students.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tax amnesty

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The provincial government has implemented a three-month tax amnesty program for delinquent taxpayers in the province. Under a resolution approved by the provincial board, the program, which took effect last Oct. 1, covers payment of debts for real properties such as lands, houses and buildings without interest.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Erratum

IN the article "Not gold, but silver glitters in Baguio" that appeared in Sunday Biz last Oct. 6, Mrs. Leonora Maranan was inadvertently mentioned as the late wife of Diego Maranan. Mrs. Maranan is very much alive. The INQUIRER apologizes to the Maranans for whatever damage the error might have caused them.

Gender rights advocates inform exec of US firm's labor violations

BAGUIO CITY—The president of Texas Instruments visited its top performing Philippine firm on Monday only to be welcomed by a protest letter from the firm's former employees.

Thomas Engibous, who is also the American firm's Dallas-based chief executive officer, made a low-key tour of the Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. (Tipi), surprising even the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) officials at the Baguio economic zone.

The Baguio-based Tipi is one of the American firm's most cost-effective semi-conductor plants in Asia, and represents 98 percent of the exports from the Baguio ecozone, a Peza source said.

Engibous' unscheduled visit had "elated" 31 former Tipi employees here, who have been lobbying for Tipi support for treatment of serious ailments which they reportedly got while working for Tipi between 1980 and 1992.

Concesa Ballarez, a Tipi employee who had succumbed to a debilitating illness that left her crippled, said documented medical cases of former Tipi employees indicated that many suffered from varying degrees of back ailments, malfunction of internal organs and skin diseases.

Tipi Philippine president Norbierto Viera declined to respond to Ballarez's claims, when the INQUIRER called his office here.

But Tipi confirmed receiving a Sept. 30 letter meant for Engibous, which was written by a gender-rights advocacy group, Ebgan Inc., on behalf of the firm's former employees.

Lynn Madalang, Ebgan executive director, asked Engibous to talk to Ballarez and other former Tipi employees.

"The issues and concerns (of Tipi's former female employees) include medical benefits which Tipi was not able to provide considering (that) their illnesses were acquired while working with your company," Madalang wrote.

"Group insurance premiums were deducted from their salaries, when they were employed yet no privileges or benefits were accorded to them after their separation from the company."

Engibous met with the firm's workers where he discussed "positive, but confidential matters" crucial to the Texas Instruments network, the Tipi public relations office confirmed. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Coast guards fail to rescue whale butchered by villagers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A fatally wounded short-finned pilot whale found in the seashores of Alabel town in Sarangani died on Thursday despite efforts to save it.

Lt. Cdr. George Ursabia, chief of the local Coast Guard Station, said the rescue team failed to revive the 14-foot mammal (*Globicephala macrorhyncus*) because of so many hack wounds.

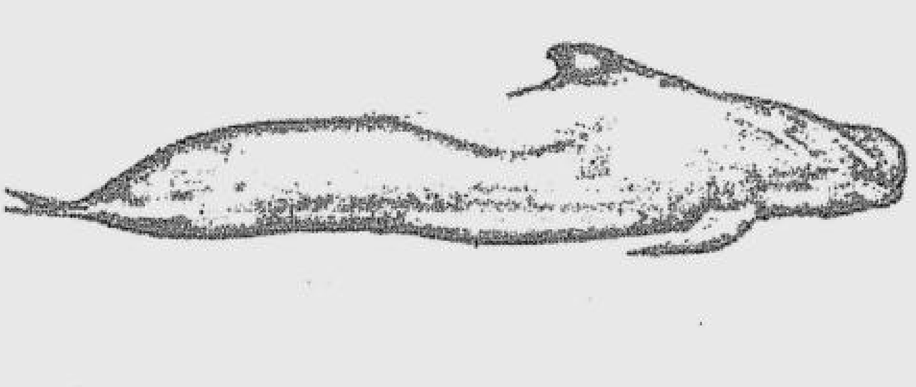
The whale, weighing about 1.5 tons, was earlier found by five villagers moored at the coast of Barangay Ladol.

The villagers tried to butcher the animal but were alarmed when people started to mill around.

Hermie Cabang, one of those who saw the efforts to kill the whale alerted the authorities.

The five villagers then abandoned the wounded whale when the authorities arrived.

Ursabia said the whale, also known as a pothead, had five deep cuts on the head.



A SHORT-finned pilot whale such as shown in the photo, was moored off Sarangani Bay on Thursday.
WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The remains of the slain mammal were later buried in Barangay Sinawal.

The College of Fisheries of the Mindanao State University here said it would exhume the bone after one year for experimental purposes.

It was the first time that a pilot whale showed up in Sarangani Bay.

Some villagers said they saw the slain mammal along with several others spy hopping and slapping their flukes on the water surface along the coastline of Ladol on Wednesday.

The short-finned pilot whale, an odontocete or toothed whale, is a very sociable animal, according to the US-based Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS).

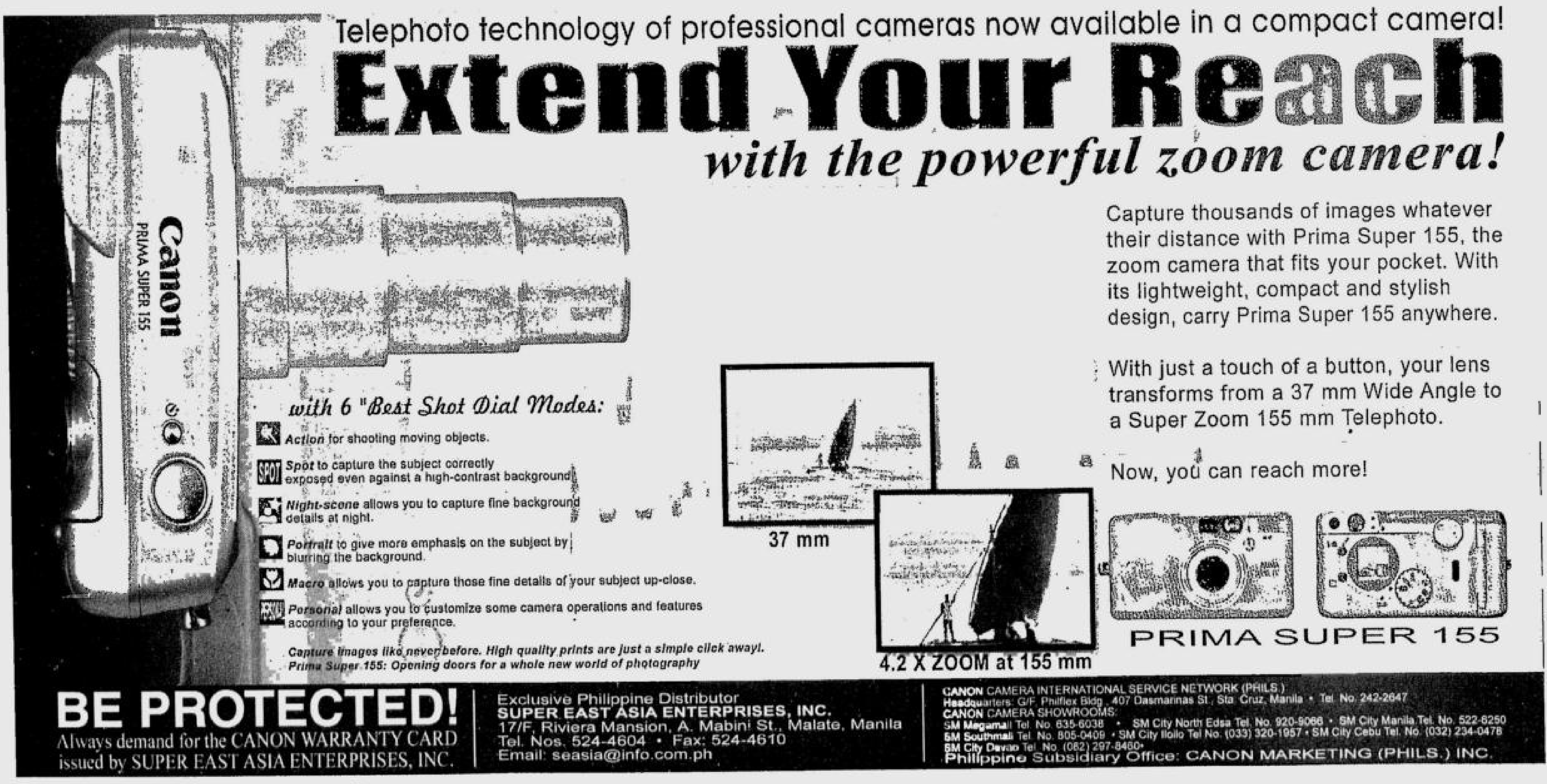
The exact number of short-finned whales in the wild remains unknown but threats such as hunting prompted conservationists to consider it as endangered.

Ursabia revealed that his office had already identified the five persons responsible for killing the pilot whale.

He said the suspects would be summoned before charges are filed in court against them.

Local authorities said the sightings of whales in Sarangani Bay only strengthen their resolve to turn it into a protected area.

Aside from whales, there are also sightings of dolphins in the bay during the past months. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Even non-gov't doctors oppose malpractice bill

DAVAO CITY—The Medical Malpractice Bill continues to draw flak from medical practitioners including those from alternative organizations.

Dr. Shalom Lorenzana, executive director of the Urban Integrated Health Services Foundation Inc., said instead of providing quality health care, the proposed law is "worse than the disease it seeks to cure."

Under the proposed law, medical practitioners thought to have erred in their judgment of a patient's case could face up to eight years in jail and penalties ranging from P500,000 to P1 million.

Lorenzana said the penalty clause alone likens a medical practitioner to a murderer.

He said medical practitioners in the public service would also be in a more disadvantageous position with the bill.

"Ironically majority of Filipinos seek medical care in government hospitals that are overcrowded (and there is) lack of facilities, equipment and manpower for the efficient delivery of health services. Under such conditions medical errors are likely to happen," he said.

If something is to be addressed, it should be the inadequacy of the government's health care system, he said.

Like those in the mainstream medical profession, Lorenzana branded the Medical Malpractice Bill as anti-health caregivers.

"The malpractice suit is like a sword hanging over their heads. Specialists in various fields would likely forego delicate diagnostic and treatment procedures, limit themselves to uncomplicated cases or low risk procedures and in extreme case would just retire early from their practice to avoid malpractice suit," he warned.

In the City of San Fernando, bill proponent Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez said the bill will be merged with protecting patients' rights to comprehensively address health care issues in the country.

Rodriguez said the unified bill would be known as the "Right to Proper Medical Health Care."

Of the two measures, Rodriguez said the medical malpractice bill had been met with stiffer opposition from doctors and hospital owners.

"It was filed and refiled due to the insistence of victims of gross negligence by a minor portion of the medical profession. It simply seeks to call attention to the rising cases of gross negligence," he said.

It proposes the creation of a panel of experts that will give their opinion on cases of gross negligence.

He said patients seeking redress through criminal cases on reckless imprudence often find themselves unable to obtain justice because no such panel exists and doctors are not keen at testifying against their colleagues.

The unified bill retains this proposal as well as the penalty of probation.

Rodriguez said the original medical malpractice bill does not recommend the death penalty on erring practitioners.

He also said the bill on patients' rights does not suggest the use of euthanasia or mercy killing.

He said the proposed law grants the offender the right to apply for probation if the practitioner had not been convicted of any offense. The length of the probation period depends on the judge but on the maximum, it can last up to six years without imprisonment.

While undergoing probation, the offender will be required to report in court while doing volunteer work in rural areas, Rodriguez said.

In worse cases, there could be forfeiture of benefits and privileges, he said.

Opponents had described the medical malpractice bill as "unconstitutional and discriminatory."

Rodriguez denied these, explaining that in the absence of stringent regulations the "gravity of responsibilities entrusted to the medical sector also requires a gravity of sanctions."

"There really is a need to compel them to be extra careful in their practice," he said.

Government doctors have opposed the bill because they are required to get insurance supposedly to cover the cost of compensation to victims. They said they could not afford to get insurance because of the government's low salary levels.

To deal with these issues, the House committee on health recently created a technical working group to oversee the hearings on the two bills.

Chaired by Rodriguez, the group is comprised of representatives from the Department of Justice, medical associations, insurance sector, Professional Regulation Commission, non-government groups and patients' groups.

Rodriguez said the committee's initial hearings and debates had already discovered serious problems in the country's health care system that would need reforms. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Antique leaders urged to end political bickering

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Frustrated with their supposedly role models, thousands of mainly young Antiqueños yesterday joined a prayer-rally calling for an end to the worsening political bickering among the province's top officials.

Spearheaded by the Youth Commission of the Diocese of Antique, the "prayer for peace" was joined by schools, religious and civic groups including the Philippine Independent Church, Bankers Association of Antique, Rotary Club and Antique Federation of Non-Government Organizations.

Political crisis

Rev. Fr. Sergio Maniba, director of the youth commission, said the rally, joined by around 4,000 people, was in response to the "political crisis" in the province brought by the worsening rift between Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez and Rep. Exequiel Javier.

"The rally shows what the youth have to say and what they feel about the crisis," said Maniba.

The protesters assembled at the Bishop's Palace in this town before holding a kilometer-long prayer march to the Evelio B. Javier Freedom Park, where a Mass was celebrated by 14 priests led by vicar general Rev. Fr. Edmund Gicaraya.

In his homily delivered in Kiniray-a near the site where former Gov. Evelio Javier was slain 16 years ago, Gicaraya called on the youth to "awaken . . . because your province is your responsibility."

"How can we achieve peace, unity and progress when our leaders . . . are fighting each other?" said Gicaraya in the homily aired live throughout Antique by the diocesan-owned radio station dyKA.

He called on the political leaders to "stop the bickering, sit down and find peace" for the progress of the province.

Peace wanted

"When we elected you as our leaders, we trusted you to guide our province towards progress, peace and prosperity. But we are saddened because selfish interests have prevailed over the interests and welfare of the majority," read a letter by youth groups addressed to the officials.

Perez and Javier as well as other officials were not in the rally.

"We are not siding with any of our leaders. We just want peace and understanding among them because we are confused with what is happening," said Amie Garcia, 20, a student of Saint Anthony's College.

The prayer-rally came a day after majority of the mayors, vice mayors and 18 town council members passed a resolution initiating a recall election against Perez and provincial board members Eric Otayde and Faith Francisco.

Recall election

The resolution signed by 126 of the 215 local officials including 10 mayors of the province during a preparatory recall assembly in Belison town, 14 km north of here, declared a loss of confidence on Perez. It accused her of various irregularities including the "selective" release of development funds for the municipalities.

Perez has denied these allegations and accused Javier of being behind the moves to oust her from office. Javier, who was present at the preparatory assembly and an earlier rally against the governor, said the moves were initiated independently by the mayors.

On Sept. 6, Vice Gov. Roberto Operiano and 10 of the 18 mayors all supporters of Javier, declared their withdrawal of support from Perez.

Perez, who belongs to the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino ran with Javier, a Lakas stalwart, during the May 2001 elections.

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IT WAS the day of pets and animal lovers on the feast day of St. Francis of Assissi. Fr. Mariano Agrada III (left) blesses a dog at the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City. A parrot (middle) and iguana (right) await their turn.

JOAN BONDOC/RANDY HORMILLOSA

Corporal in kidnap named

From page A1

and his cameraman were abducted by military escorts of Lyn while on an assignment in Indanan town in Sulu. But in a statement sent to the INQUIRER on Saturday, Lorenzo said he did not say the escorts were soldiers. He said he had simply described them as escorts in fatigues.

Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri claimed that soldiers assigned to Lyn abducted Lorenzo and Ordiales.

Yesterday, the military insisted that no government soldier was involved in the abduction. But in an apparent attempt to end the brewing controversy, an official said the military was willing to produce the soldiers who were being linked to the incident.

"Assuming they were soldiers, they were with the group of Hadja Lyn and Lorenzo up to a certain point. They were not privy to the kidnapping. They were not there," said Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Armed Forces public information office chief.

Servando said that based on his talk with Aleo, the two soldiers allegedly assigned to Lyn merely escorted the GMA 7 personnel up to a certain point but left shortly before the abduction took place.

Asked if the military considered the abduction a "closed case," Servando said it was still being investigated. "Hadja Lyn right now is under custody pending the conduct of the investigation. The military will assist the police in the conduct of the investigation if ever there is a need for us, for example, to produce the soldiers," Servando said.

Principal suspect

Lt. General Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, informed the INQUIRER through text messages that the integrees were just accessories to Lyn. "Hadja Lyn is the principal suspect and is now with the police undergoing investigation together with Arola Abubakar."

Carolina said he never denied the possible participation of the integree escorts. "The fact that Hadja is the prime suspect, then her escorts are also suspects. However, to say at this point that soldiers did it is incorrect and misleading. We are almost sure that one of them is involved because he went on Awol (absence without leave)."

He said the other integree was a member of the Jolo Internal Defense Security Group under Lt. Abe Sirajan. "He is also a suspect but his degree of participation will depend on Hadja's declaration."

"It is correct to say that the two integrees are involved. (Pieces of) Evidence and declarations made after Carlo was released point to that. The result of the ongoing investigation will establish the degree of participation of the integrees. To say at this point that soldiers did it discredits the whole AFP," Carolina said.

He included in his text messages that "to slant it further, you (the INQUIRER correspondent) have used Governor Jikiri to support your story. Even if the governor knows the integrees are not the masterminds *pero yun ang lumabas sa story mo* (that was what appeared in your story)."

Lyn, who claimed to have been turned over to the Sulu provincial police for custodial investigation on Oct. 2, complained that the media had not taken her side. "I feel it is very unfair on my part. They kept on talking and giving their own side on what had happened, but nobody listened to me," she said in Filipino.

Lyn's version

She said she had nothing to do with the abduction in Barangay Kagay in Indanan on Sept. 28. "I was at the brigade at about 2 p.m. I left the house at around 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. I even passed by the house of Maas Maharadja Abdul Laup. I had a conversation with him for a few minutes and then I proceeded at Alat to fetch (MNLF surrenderee) Arola (Abubakar) and brought him to the brigade to attend to Arola's livelihood funds."

Lyn said a certain Sergeant Mahaba met them at the brigade headquarters at about 2 p.m. "*Si Sergeant Mahaba kasi ang humahawak at nagpapa*-follow up *sa* livelihood *ni Arola*."

After the meeting with Mahaba, Lyn and Arola left the camp at about 4 p.m. She proceeded to her house and after a few minutes, she received visitors, the drivers of GMA Network identified as Amil Paraji and a certain Pendatun.

The two drivers informed her that Lorenzo and his cameraman were left in Kagay, after they were escorted by two armed men and an old man.

Paraji told her that he just checked his vehicle so he returned to the area where he left the jeep, but when he tried to catch up with Lorenzo, he and his cameraman were nowhere in sight. The drivers, according to Lyn, begged her not to report the incident to the military and police.

She said she was surprised when the Sulu police called her up and asked her to report to the police station to explain the missing GMA 7 crew.

"I told them that I would go to their station in the morning. Besides it was quite late already," Lyn said. But on Sunday morning, while she was preparing to go to the police station, several soldiers went to her house and told her to report to Musngue at the Army brigade.

Lyn admitted that she was being handled by Musngue as a military asset, but she said her role was solely to work for the surrender of MNLF fighters. "I was tapped as their (military) negotiator to deal with the MNLF. In fact, I am still working for the surrender of 19 MNLF and (Southern Command chief) Gen. Carolina as well as Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, former head of the 104th Army Brigade, knew about it," Lyn said.

Interrogation

Musngue interrogated her. Later, she was advised to go home but with another set of security personnel from the 104th Army Brigade. From Sunday to Wednesday, she was placed under tactical interrogation by Musngue. On Wednesday afternoon, the military turned her over to the Sulu police.

Lyn confirmed to the INQUIRER that Tolentino, then head of the brigade, provided her with an escort from the Jolo Internal Defense Force under Lt. Abe Sirajan five months ago. She identified her escort as Pfc. Norbi Alawan, an integree.

Lyn said she learned on Sept. 30 that the brigade had ordered the transfer of Alawan.

She said she learned about the abduction of the GMA personnel during the series of tactical interrogation she underwent and through her conversation with Aleo and a certain Colonel Salapuddin.

"I learned that they were the ones who took Carlo when Colonel Aleo called for me on Wednesday morning. Colonel Aleo told me that Mohammad was assigned as DS (detailed security) to me . I told Aleo that it was not Mohammad but Alawan who was assigned to me," Lyn said in Filipino.

But Aleo told her that Musngue insisted that Mohammad was detailed to her. Aleo then instructed a certain Colonel Salapuddin to verify the order, and Salapuddin confirmed to Aleo that Mohammad was not detailed to Lyn as military escort based on the retrieved order.

Sacrificial lamb

Lyn felt that she and her military escort were used as sacrificial lambs by the military to save their skin.

"I really felt bad. We are all affected, including my military escort Alawan who was no longer seen after he asked that he be excused. I hope I will not be blamed for their sins. If they will pressure me, I will also pressure them. They know how I work," Lyn said.

She said a veiled threat to her handlers. "If they want to save their own selves, they should also save me."

Lyn expressed the belief that Musngue had something to do with the situation she was in right now. "It's his man. It's impossible that he does not know what's happening or what his men are doing," she said.

Alawan informed Lyn on Sept. 29 that Musngue had given him a mission to go to Barangay Bato-bato, and that he even showed her the P500 bill as his fare in going to the area to get Mohammad.

Lyn said Alawan also told her that Musngue had advised him not to talk to her after his mission in Bato-bato. "That escort was good, loyal to me. That's why he told me about the order that Musngue issued at the kitchen of their office."

Malacañang is keeping its hands off the conflicting versions made by Lorenzo and Governor Jikiri regarding the identity of the kidnappers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was just thankful that Lorenzo and Ordiales were recovered safely, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

He said the President was also relieved to learn that GMA 7 did not pay any ransom. "As to these conflicting versions, maybe we'll just leave it to the investigators to decide. We do not wish to go into these details," Bunye said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil*

TEACHING THEM YOUNG

A young Muslim bows in prayer for peace inside the Blue Mosque at the Maharlika Village in Taguig City.

VAL HANDUMON

Bomb blast won't stop RP-US exercises

From page A1

regarding the identities of those behind the bomb attack.

According to Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Armed Forces public information office chief, American and Filipino investigators are still sifting through the debris.

"(They) are picking up small pieces of debris, pieces of evidence, just to establish the motive behind the bombing and all other circumstances that will establish . . . the identity and the motive of the bomber," Servando said.

"Right now, we do not have a full picture of what happened and that will be released as soon as the investigation is completed," he added.

The military initially refused to blame any specific group but later conceded the attack carried the hallmarks of the Abu Sayyaf, a small band of self-proclaimed Islamic militants more notorious for their kidnapping activities.

Manila and Washington have said the Abu Sayyaf at one time had loose links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The US military accepted Jackson's death as a "professional risk," Golez said even as he sought to assure the public that US troops would not directly join combat operations in future joint exercises to avenge the death of a colleague.

Jackson belonged to a 260-man contingent that stayed behind to continue with humanitarian and reconstruction work in Basilan.

Golez said a 12-man mission made up of FBI agents and criminal investigation units from the US Army and Navy was working with Filipino authorities to investigate the bombing.

"We hope to know the results of the initial investigation anytime next week," US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said. *Reports from AP and Martin P. Marfil*

Gov't presses for dialogue with Nur loyalists in MNLF

From page A1

and some members "have remained a security threat," he said, despite the government's announcement of having been able to "neutralize" the Abu Sayyaf following its claim that it had killed the bandit group's spokesperson, Abu Sabaya, in a sea encounter off Zamboanga del Norte in June.

Ermita said the government had yet to schedule a meeting with the pro-Misuari MNLF leaders. "It might be held in a week or two from now," he said.

"I'm just waiting for a signal from the Southern Command (chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina), who will have to contact the MNLF commanders under Misuari," Ermita said.

The holding of the meeting, he said, would "avoid misunderstanding and misencounter (between Misuari's armed followers and government troops)."

The venue had yet to be determined, Ermita added, but "this (meeting) should be done at the earliest possible time."

Executive Director Zamzamin Ampatuan of the Office on Muslim Affairs said members of the newly organized Union of MNLF Senior Officers were also seeking an audience with Malacañang officials. The group is composed of former MNLF rebels who had surrendered to the government before it signed a final peace agreement with the Moro front in 1996.

The members also have their own issues and concerns that need presidential action, Ampatuan said.

Last month, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) raised the same concern that the government was now confronted with. MILF leaders said they wanted the thousands of Filipinos ejected from Sabah to join their group for fear that they might be recruited by the Abu Sayyaf.

Misuari, former ARMM governor, is facing rebellion charges for allegedly leading attacks on military camps in Sulu in November last year. He was arrested in Sabah and is now detained in a military camp in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Sidelined by such event, the MNLF immediately organized a 15-member executive council of top-ranking officials that included former MNLF foreign affairs chair and now ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin. But several field commanders have remained loyal to Misuari.

Treat American soldier's death as police case, Palace told

A LAWMAKER yesterday cautioned Malacañang against using the "unfortunate" death of an American serviceman in a bomb attack in Zamboanga City last week to intensify its cooperation with the United States in the global fight against terrorism.

Instead, it should adopt a foreign policy that is independent from the United States, party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) said in a statement.

"It's high time we learn to operate as a proud and independent nation instead of the lackey that we once were, especially during the one-man rule of the late (President Ferdinand) Marcos who used martial law to defend the retention of the US military bases, among other interests of the US," Rosales said in a statement.

Rosales was reacting to President Macapagal-Arroyo's resolve to throw the country's support to the United States following Friday's bomb attack that killed American Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wayne Jackson and two Filipinos.

She said she disagreed with the President's statement that Jackson's death should be a rallying point for greater cooperation between Manila and Washington.

The American's death was a "local police matter" and should be "treated as such," Rosales said.

Jackson should have not been in Zamboanga in the first place because the United States had already concluded its war games with Manila and the crisis involving the abduction of American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham had long been resolved, she pointed out.

The continued presence of Americans here was a violation of the Constitution, which prohibits the presence of foreign troops without the benefit of a treaty, Rosales said.

"More than ever, it is incumbent for the Philippine political leadership to pay attention to the import of our Constitutional mandate in the question of foreign policy," she said.

For instance, she noted that Manila continued to "adulate American initiatives" to go to war with Iraq when the Philippines' basic law of the land supports the use of diplomatic and peaceful means in resolving conflict among nations.

Christine O. Avendaño

Global role for 'pork' defenders?

From page A1

The initiative to form the Gopac "should be joined by the Philippines with intensity and enthusiasm as the world is swept by official corruption on an impossible magnitude," Angara said in a statement.

But he did not mention that congressmen and senators had resisted proposals to abolish their pork barrel, a source of kickbacks and campaign funds. Pork barrel refers to money from the national budget that finances projects identified by legislators.

As much as 60 percent of the budget for infrastructure projects is lost to corruption, according to another senator.

Members of Congress have two sources of pork barrel. One is the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), previously called the Countrywide Development Fund, which comes from different departments. The other is the public works fund of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

A member of the House is entitled to identify projects worth up to P65 million from the PDAF and a minimum of P35 million from the yearly public works fund of the DPWH. Senators are allowed to identify P200 million worth of projects from the two sources every year.

Angara's committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms is now writing a government procurement law that seeks to stamp out official corruption by plugging the holes in the bidding and procurement process.

Last year, a total of P21 billion of the government's P104-billion procurement budget was lost to corruption due to collusion, lack of competition and transparency, and delays in the implementation of government projects, according to the chair of House appropriations committee.

A World Bank report said more than $40 billion had been lost over the past 20 years due to official corruption.

Angara said the Philippine Congress' participation in the Gopac would place the country at the center of initiatives to introduce reform legislation and advocacy against corruption.

"Parliaments of the world should unite and do battle against corruption on a global scale. We have nothing to lose but our lethargy," he said.

Angara said that parliaments all over the world would meet in Ottawa on Oct. 13 to 16 to discuss strategies on how to fight corruption in their home countries and later link up to fight corruption on a global scale. The meeting will also mark the launching of the Gopac.

He said the Philippine delegation could present the agenda of the Philippine Congress in fighting official corruption.

After several months of public hearings and discussions with various anti-corruption groups in and out of government, the Angara committee is scheduled to present a comprehensive agenda to fight official corruption. This would be done through the overhaul of the present laws on government procurement, both on goods and services and the bid and awards on government infrastructure.

The committee report, which will be presented for plenary approval, arose from bills filed by Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda and Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Robert Jaworski.

Rocky Nazareno

Education stats draw …

From page A1

more people have gone to school in the era of mass education than during Rizal's time when only a handful of the elite could attend school. And poverty also affects the health and performance of students. As well, it is responsible for the rising number of dropouts.

The government has fulfilled the constitutional mandate giving education highest priority in the budgetary allocation. This allocation has not wiped out the hidden illiteracy in the schools system.

This article is an assessment of the state of education at its basic level that determines the quality of entrants to tertiary education. The statistics paint an appalling picture, although gains have been made at least during the past decade.

Education infrastructure

This article is not going to discuss the debate over the new curriculum revamp aimed at realigning the education system to the demands of international competitiveness and at inculcating Filipino cultural values and civic responsibility. It is about the more basic infrastructure of education where students are taught to master the three Rs, and its output. For example:

- We have 36,169 elementary schools and 4,202 high schools, employing 500,000 teachers. In the academic year 2002-03, more than 17 million students were enrolled. Of this, 11 million pupils were enrolled in public elementary schools, with 925,000 enrolled in private schools. Four million were enrolled in public high schools and 1.2 million in private schools.
- While the ideal gross teacher-to-student ratio is one teacher for every 34 students, the actual public school class size is, on the average, more than 60 students.
- In a recent national elementary achievement test, the overall mean percentage score of elementary school students was about 49 percent. The lowest score was in Mathematics (45 percent). The score was higher in social studies (55 percent). These figures indicate that the average Grade 6 student has mastered only half of the contents of the basic subjects (Math, Science, English, Filipino and Social Studies).

In the national secondary achievement test, the mean performance score was 54 percent, with Math scoring 49 percent, compared with 66 percent for Filipino and 58 percent for Social Studies. These figures indicate that the average fourth-year high school student has mastered only half of the contents of these basic subjects.

According to a report by Inter Press Service, the Philippines "spends only one-eighth of what Thailand sets aside for basic education." The Ateneo Center for Policy Studies reports that there has been a minimal increase in public spending for social services—basic education, preventive health care, water and sanitation—in proportion to total public spending. "Human proportion (share of spending on basic social services to total budget), barely increased from its 11 to 12 percent levels in 10 years from 1987 to 1997," says the report.

No electricity, toilets

A government-sponsored survey of more than 400,000 teachers found that 55 percent of their schools had no electricity, 84 percent had no running water, and only 38 percent had toilets. A quarter of the teachers polled said they taught in classrooms without ceilings, 45 percent said they brought their own tables to school, and 43 percent brought their own chairs.

The survey found that a number of teachers were teaching subjects they were not trained for, explaining "why the public school system churns out graduates who are totally unprepared for a complex world," in the words of journalist Yvonne Chua. Teachers have been found to be underpaid.

In 1995, according to the Inter Press report, the Philippines ranked third to the last in elementary and second to the last in elementary science in an international test taken by half a million elementary and high school students in 45 countries. A 1997 Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) study assessed the performance of the Philippine Education for All (EFA) program and the Philippine Plan of Action (PPA) for the 1990s.

According to its report on the state of primary education, the Philippines followed the constitutional provision requiring education to receive the highest budgetary priority. In 1990, the education sector was allocated funds equivalent to 3.07 percent of the gross national product (GNP). National defense was allocated 1.38 percent; health, 0.71 percent; and transportation and communications, 2.18 percent.

The primary education sector took a third of the education sector funds, equivalent to 1.18 percent of the GNP or 40.1 percent of total expenditure on education. Comparing our allocation with that of other Asian countries, Malaysia in the 1980s was spending for education 7 percent of GNP; Bhutan, 4 percent; and Indonesia, 3.7 percent.

The Philippines and Bangladesh (1.5 percent of the GNP) were at the lowest end of the spectrum. Malaysia and Papua New Guinea (6.9 percent) were at the high end.

Although at first glance the education budget may appear to enjoy only a small share in the total national budget, the record for the EFA decade shows that the education sector's share in the total budget pie has steadily increased from 13 percent in 1991 to 21 percent in 1998. Funding for elementary education has grown from 42.3 percent of the total education budget in 1989 to 59.1 percent in 1999, although this was merely a return to the 60 percent in 1987 and earlier years.

2.3 million illiterates

In 1990, the simple literacy rate among 15-plus year olds was 93.6 percent. Although this literacy level was high for developing country standards, there were 2.3 million illiterate adults, which Unesco found "worrisome."

The Unesco report notes that the Philippines provided a high level of access to primary education in 1990. The apparent intake rate for new entrants to Grade 1 was 134.2 percent and the net intake rate was 79.8. percent. The gap suggests that many families were postponing their children's schooling, probably a symptom of poverty.

The report points to the effect of ill-health on school performance. Frequent sickness abetted frequent absences and lack of concentration. Malnutrition, rampant in rural areas, causes lower intelligence quotients (IQs), poor school attendance and shorter attention spans, making the affected children more prone to repeat grades or to drop out of school.

Malnourished children also tended to achieve less in school. Iron deficiency was the most common form of malnutrition in the Philippines in the 1990s.

Although public policy provides for free elementary public education, poverty disadvantages the poor. Here, smaller resource allocation to poverty alleviation program appears to affect the quality of school output. As many as 1.7 million Filipino children in the 7-12 age bracket are out of school, most of whom are from the poorest provinces. "Although public elementary education is free, school-related expenses like transportation fare, snacks, lunch, school supplies and other materials are beyond the financial capabilities of the poor," says Unesco.

The Ateneo study found that out of every 100 Filipino schoolchildren enrolled each year, 66 will complete elementary education and 42 high school. Only 14 will earn a college degree.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. OSCAR LOPEZ

MERALCO: IT'S ALL ABOUT FLEECING HAPLESS CONSUMERS

4 October 2002

Dear Oskie,

I fully understand your attempt to charge that chapter in the history of Meralco's ownership to the convenient "culprit" that is Martial Law.

I hear what you are saying loud and clear. In fact I would like to believe that 1) the Lopez companies were not in financial trouble at that time and that you never approached the Government about bailing you out, and 2) that the sale of Meralco was an "asset grab" done entirely out of duress. **However, that is not what the documents say.** Since I do not have the same enormous resources available to you to enable me to share these documents with the public via full page paid advertisements, I invite anyone who may care to read them to access my website (www.jpenrile.com).

Fortunately or unfortunately for mortals like us, history continues to be written and re-written despite the demise of people who participated in its making. If these documents reflect the true nature of the sale, then history, not Juan Ponce Enrile, will re-write itself.

The issue of the sale of Meralco, the debts that government had to assume and the sums paid to your family, and how you re-acquired its ownership and control without paying anything back to the government may well have been forgotten. What urges us to revisit events of the past is that at present, Meralco's millions of captive customers continue to reel under its abusive overcharging and profit manipulation schemes.

Let us not muddle the power issue by conjuring up the specter of martial law. The reality is that millions of Filipinos in your franchise areas struggle every month to pay for Meralco's overcharges. They take from their food budget and school children's tuition for fear of your heartless disconnection. **Even as you claimed to be victims of past injustices, I fail to see how that gives you the license to inflict pain upon you hapless consumers today.**

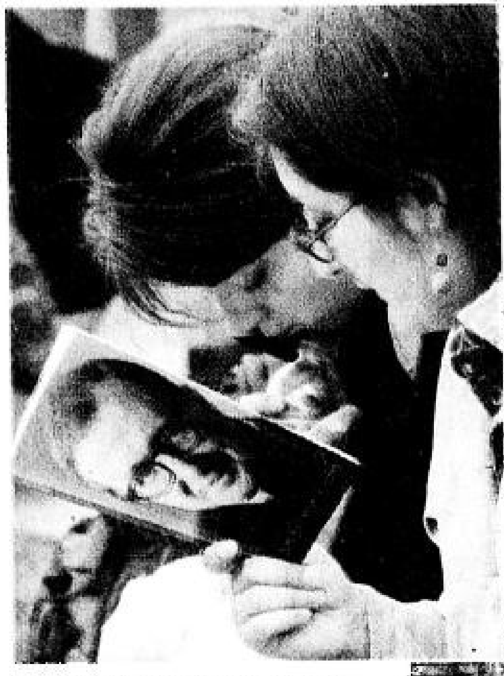
The record of Meralco as one of the most competitive distribution utilities in the world under the stewardship of your late father, Don Eugenio Lopez, Sr. is indeed a proud legacy to you and your family. The Meralco we see today, however, is a sorry mirror of its old self. I challenge you to bring Meralco back to its glory days and to treat your customers with honesty and respect.

I believe it to be my right and duty to speak about what I know, and to ask questions to which the Filipino people deserve answers. Those who condemn me for my role in the days of Martial Law should find consolation in the fact that I am still alive today to accept the consequences of my deeds and the harsh judgment of humans who have hated me for what I was and what I am. In the end, each one of us must submit to the inexorable judgment reserved only to history, and ultimately to God.

Sincerely,

JUAN PONCE ENRILE

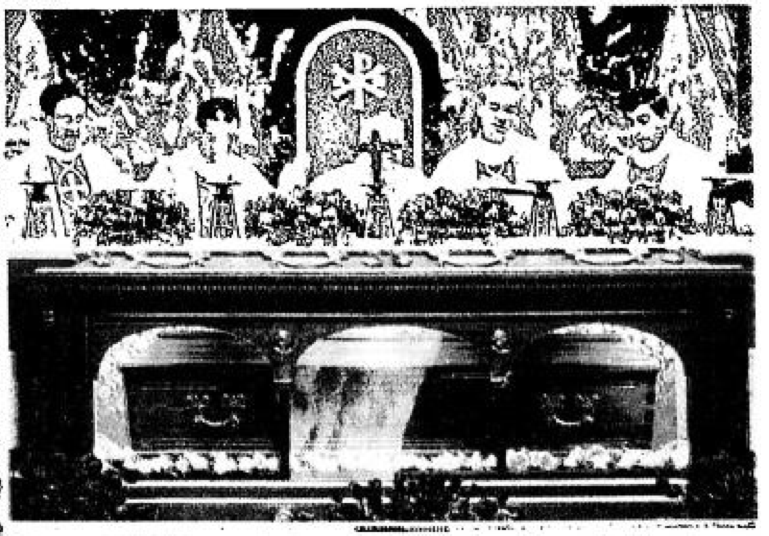
Advt



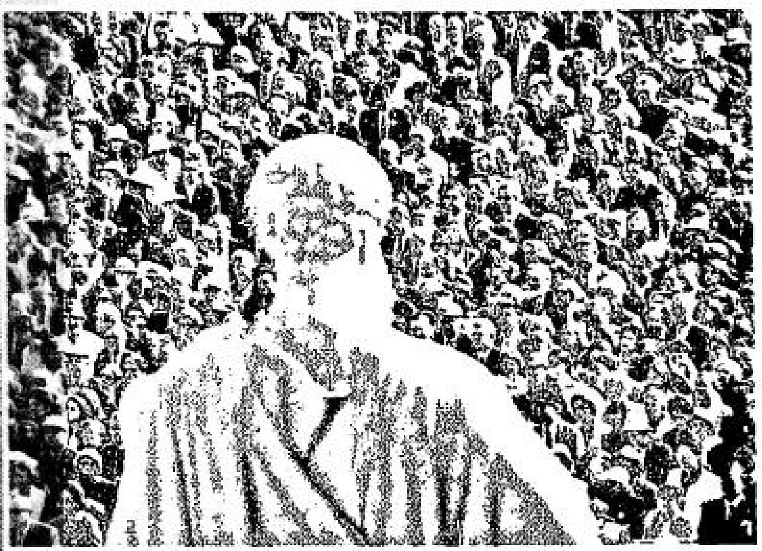
YOUNG devotees look at the cover of a booklet of prayers regarding Escriva outside the St. Eugenio Basilica in Rome. AP

VATICAN-BOUND Spanish pilgrims disembark from their ship at the Civitavecchia's harbor, 60 kilometers from Rome on Saturday. AP

AT LEAST 300,000 pilgrims fill the Via della Conciliazione for the canonization ceremony of Escriva, the 468th saint proclaimed by Pope John Paul II. REUTERS



PRIESTS pray in front of the remains of Opus Dei founder, Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, in St. Eugenio's Basilica. AFP



PILGRIMS stand in front of St. Peter's statue as Pope John Paul II conducts the canonization Mass. AFP

THE SPANIARDS arrive with their flag at the St. Peter's Square for the elevation of their countryman to sainthood. AP

Opus Dei founder now a saint

From page A1

saint-making timetables, which can stretch over centuries.

In a sign of Escriva's loyal and fervent following, the crowd was so large—police headquarters estimated there were at least 300,000 people—that it stretched several blocks from the vast square to the Tiber and onto several side streets.

"After long reflection, invoking Divine Help many times and listening to many of our brothers, we declare the Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer a saint and include him in the annals of saints," the gold-robed Pope said in Latin.

Escriva, who died in 1975, is the 468th saint proclaimed by John Paul, who has made more saints than all of his predecessors in the last four centuries combined.

In a sign of the Pope's admiration for the new saint as well as for his followers, John Paul at the end of the ceremony was driven in an open-topped vehicle the length of the boulevard from the square to the river and back, instead of his usual more limited spin around the square.

Many in the crowd burst into tears at the action of the 82-year-old Pontiff, who two decades ago conferred special status on Opus Dei, bringing it directly under his jurisdiction instead of under that of local bishops.

Devotion

As a sign of devotion, several of the pilgrims stayed on their knees on cobblestones during much of the three-hour-long ceremony under hazy skies.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims came from Spain, Escriva's homeland. Many others came from Latin America, where Opus Dei has strongly taken hold and where the Catholic Church is trying to hold on to souls being increasingly attracted to Protestantism and evangelical sects.

3,300 Pinoys

In the Philippines, Opus Dei was introduced by Bernardo Villegas in 1964. Placido Mapa and Jesus Estanislao joined him later. The Work spread through the years with Opus Dei giving information to single men and women who chose to be numeraries, and married couples who become supernumeraries.

An estimated 3,300 Filipinos were present during the canonization rites, among them 10-year-old Noel Macaraeg who is suffering from leukemia. He was brought by four members of the Make a Wish Foundation. Fr. Quirino Glorioso, a 99-year-old Opus Dei priest in the Philippines, came to Rome for the first time.

Seventeen Filipino bishops whose dioceses work with Opus Dei were invited to the event. Also present were Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Alba and Philippe Lhuiller, ambassador to Italy. Seventy Filipinos were part of the grand choir that sang during the canonization rites. Eight young men and 16 young women were sent from the Philippines by Opus Dei as volunteers. They raised their own fare and pocket money.

Many of Opus Dei's more than 80,000 members come from top professional ranks, including law, medicine, publishing and other businesses. Opus Dei, which means "God's Work," has about 1,800 priests.

While the majority of the membership are laity, many of them take vows of chastity similar to those taken by priests and nuns. From the various walks of life, they share Escriva's belief that holiness can come through carrying out, with extraordinary care and diligence, the most ordinary of tasks, like keeping house or being a student.

"Work or any other activity, carried out with the help of Grace, transforms itself by means of daily sanctification," John Paul said, speaking in Spanish, in his homily.

Current, urgent

Hailing Escriva's message as "current and urgent," he said today's faithful are called to be "holy and to work together for the salvation of humanity."

The many suits and ties and conservative dresses and string pearls worn by the faithful to the ceremony reflected Opus Dei's often upscale membership.

Even the crowd's applause at the proclamation of the Church's latest saint was decorous compared to the explosions of joy ringing out at some at other sainthood ceremonies, such as last year spring's canonization of Italian monk Padre Pio.

Coming for Sunday's ceremony was Manuel Nevado Rey, a Spanish doctor whose recovery from a debilitating skin disease after Escriva was beatified in 1992 was judged by the Vatican to be a miracle achieved through Escriva's intercession.

Escriva's beatification, the last formal step before sainthood, came in the face of accusations, including some by former Opus Dei members, that the founder did not have the virtues of a saint. They accused him of being ill-tempered at times and arrogant about his mission. One former follower has published a book comparing the movement to a personality cult and warning others against joining it.

Opus Dei was also accused of having a dangerous, secret, fundamentalist agenda. The group appears to have gradually opened up to outsiders and even past critics have acknowledged that.

Opus Dei, some of whose members whip themselves to practice self-mortification, has rejected charges that it is elitist and secretive. *Reports from Josie Darang, AP and Reuters*

Boat with explosives rams French oil tanker

From page A1

ers remained unaccounted for. Sixteen of the crew were Bulgarian.

"The oil tanker was rammed by a small boat stuffed with explosives," as it came by an offshore terminal in the Arabian Sea, Goncalves told the Agence France Presse.

"It seems to be an attack in the same style as the USS Cole," he said of the destroyer blown up by suspected al-Qaida militants at the Aden harbor almost exactly two years ago on Oct. 12, 2000. Seventeen US sailors died and 38 were wounded in that attack.

A gaping hole was blown into the side of the tanker owned by the company "French Ship Management," the diplomat said.

"It is sinking, if it has not already sunk," Goncalves said of the French tanker located some 700 km east of Aden. The vessel, carrying 397,000 barrels of crude from Iran's Kharj terminal, was to add a further 1.5 million barrels of Yemeni oil from Mina al-Thabah.

As a huge pall of smoke blew over the area, a Yemeni statement said the explosion was caused "when the reservoirs filled with crude caught fire with the vessel three nautical miles from the offshore terminal of Mina al-Thabah."

"The situation is difficult aboard the ship and thick columns of smoke are rising into the air. Efforts are under way to save the other members of the crew and bring the fire under control," said the statement carried by the official Saba news agency.

The French military attaché in Yemen, identified as Colonel Vial, told France's LCI television: "This explosion occurred at the same moment as a small boat approached the tanker, which could indicate it is not an accidental explosion."

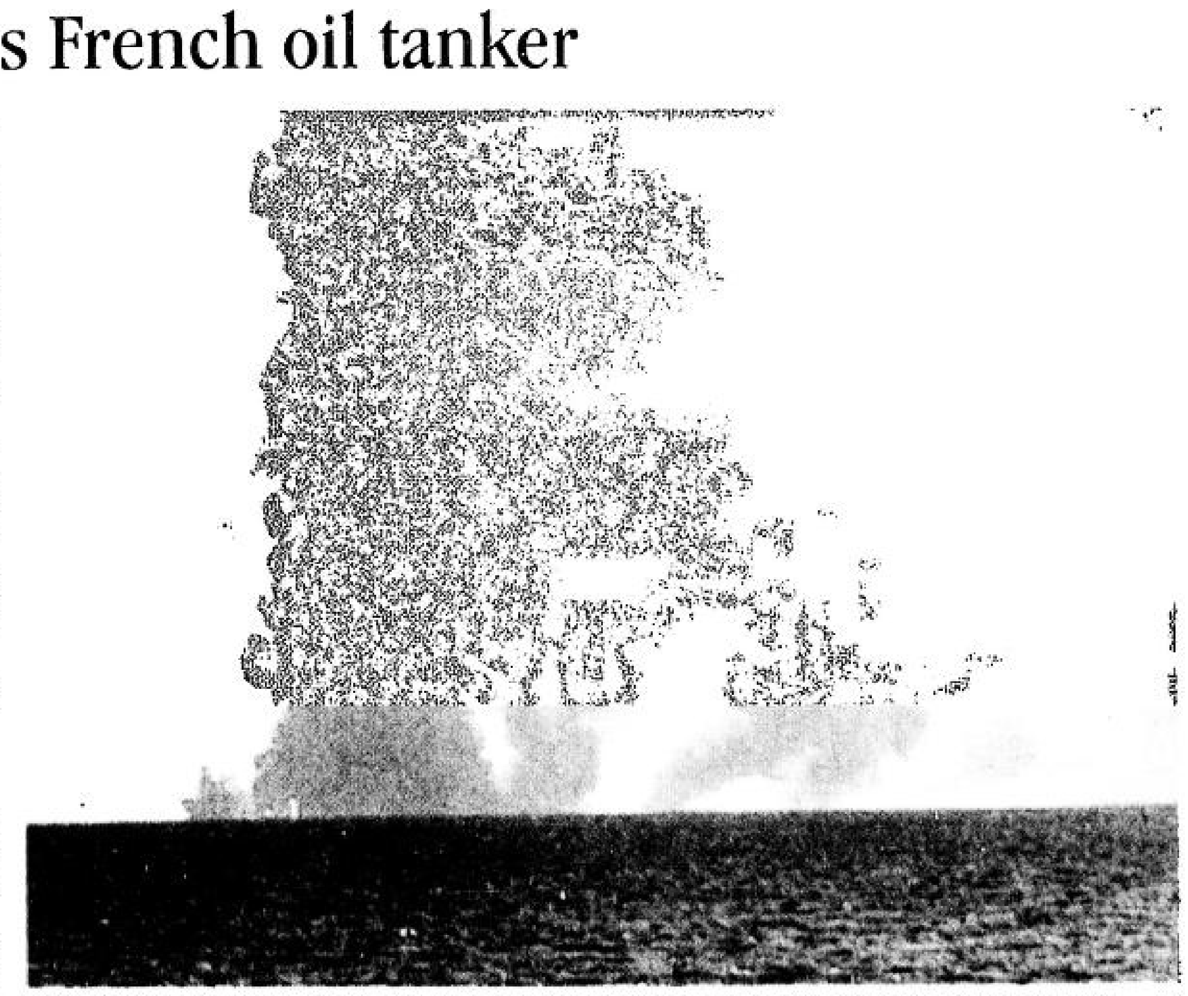
But he added: "Other sources tell us it was an accidental explosion."

Conflicting reports

A Yemeni official said authorities were investigating the cause of the fire, adding they did not believe it was a terrorist act.

"The fire is still raging and the situation is very difficult," a government official in Aden said. "It is too early to say what caused the fire.

A Western military source familiar with the area also said he did not believe there had been an attack, saying: "As far as we can tell, this does not appear to be terrorist-related. It is not unheard-of for such explosions to take place on tankers."



SMOKE billows from the French supertanker Limburg off the coast of the Yemeni port of al-Mukalla. AFP

There has been a heavy US Navy presence in the strategic waterways of the oil-rich Gulf since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Last month, the Navy warned oil tankers of possible attacks by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network. Naval spokesperson Lt. Chris Davis told Reuters on Sunday the Fifth Fleet, which covers the region, was not planning to step up its patrols after the Yemen blast.

"The US Navy will continue with its state of readiness," Davis told Reuters from the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain. "There are no specific moves yet to step up patrols."

The French attaché, Vial, said there had been eight Frenchmen and 17 Bulgarians aboard the tanker.

A Yemeni oil industry source said the 157,833-ton Limburg was carrying 397,000 barrels of crude and that it had been coming into port from Iran to load more oil. A large amount of the crude had already leaked into the sea, he added.

Since the attack on the Cole, Yemen has been working to shrug off its image as a haven for Islamic militants.

Washington blames the attack on the Cole on al-Qaida, which it also holds responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

Yemen has arrested more than 100 suspected members of al-Qaida and other Islamic groups over the past year. The impoverished Arab state is Bin Laden's ancestral home and many of the suspected al-Qaida members arrested abroad also hail from there.

In January, Yemen launched the only military campaign against al-Qaida outside Afghanistan, where a US-led strike ousted the Taliban government that sheltered Bin Laden. *Reports from Reuters and AFP*

Probe of Petron depot's effect on ecology ordered

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has ordered an investigation into allegations that oil company Petron's 2,000-hectare mini bulk plant in Barangay Ipil, Lonos, Romblon will adversely affect the island's environment and tourism.

Romblon Gov. Elandro Madrona and the Concerned Citizens of Romblon (CCR) had appealed to Alvarez for an "open and thorough public hearing" on the controversial P10.8-million plant. The Romblon Municipal Tourism Council recently approved a resolution banning all fuel depots from the Lonos-Romblon area.

Alvarez said he would also like to hear the side of all affected stakeholders. He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources might revoke Petron's permit to operate the plant if the complaints were proven true.

Residents, local officials and non-governmental organizations have complained that the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the 1,175.17-cubic meter capacity plant, issued on Oct. 1, 1999, was given without the benefit of a public hearing or consultations with residents as required by law.

They also said the project did not have the required barangay council approval, and that Petron's fuel pipelines extended to the beaches of Romblon, violating a local ordinance setting a 40-meter shoreline constraint for any industrial activity.

"The ECC issued by my predecessor may have flaws," Alvarez said, as he directed newly installed DENR Region IV-B regional executive director Jovito Layugan to start the investigation immediately.

Records showed that Petron called for a public hearing last July 18, but oppositors did not show up. Those who attended, including Romblon Bishop Arturo Bastes and local government officials, all supported the project.

WHO needs additional $330M to fight TB

GENEVA—The World Health Organization needs an extra $300 million a year to reach its goals in the fight against tuberculosis in the Philippines and 21 other countries, a WHO statement said on Sunday.

"Tuberculosis experts working with WHO estimate that the total cost of controlling the disease worldwide is $1.2 billion dollars every year," the statement said.

"Three-quarters of that total is already covered by countries, donors and other sources. The remaining $300 million each year is urgently needed if the targets are to be met by 2005," the statement said.

The target is to detect 70 percent of estimated tuberculosis cases wordwide, up from 30 percent today, using the established DOTS program by which patients with tubercular symptoms are given a spit test and offered a standard six to eight-month course of treatment if the disease is confirmed.

According to a WHO report, the Philippines, with 348.5 cases per 100,000 population, ranks fourth among all countries and second in the Western Pacific region in terms of notified TB cases. *AFP*

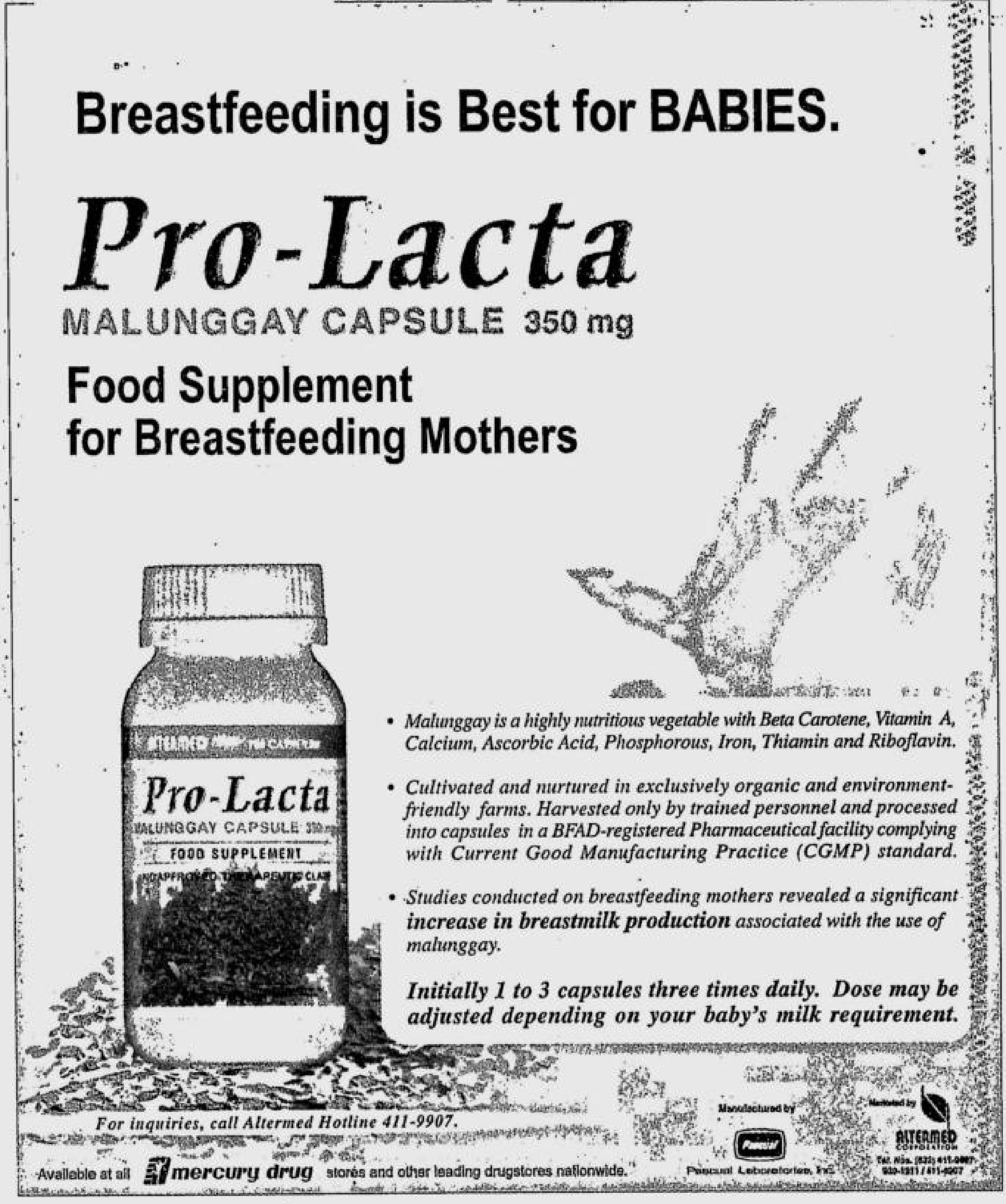
Barbers' anti-drugs work cited

FOR HIS efforts in fighting illegal drugs, Sen. Robert Barbers will be given an award by the International Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (INEOA) during its conference in Orlando, Florida on Oct. 14.

Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, will be cited for "having shown dedication and exemplary performance in helping exterminate the drug menace since he was a police officer and a member of Manila's Finest up to now."

Barbers is a former Manila police officer who rose from the ranks.

In its notification to Barbers, the INEOA also commended him for his "vigorous and exceptional work in the passage of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002," considered to be the toughest anti-drug law in Asia. *Rocky Nazareno*



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There is 1 pusher for every 3 barangays, drug enforcers say

THERE are more drug syndicates than there are members of the House of Representatives, and there is roughly one active drug pusher for every three barangays.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said the other day an estimated 11 transnationals and 215 local drug syndicates are currently operating in the country. By contrast, there are only 214 congressmen.

PDEA Director General Anselmo Avenido also said his agency, formed only in July, has listed 15,000 drug pushers operating at the barangay level.

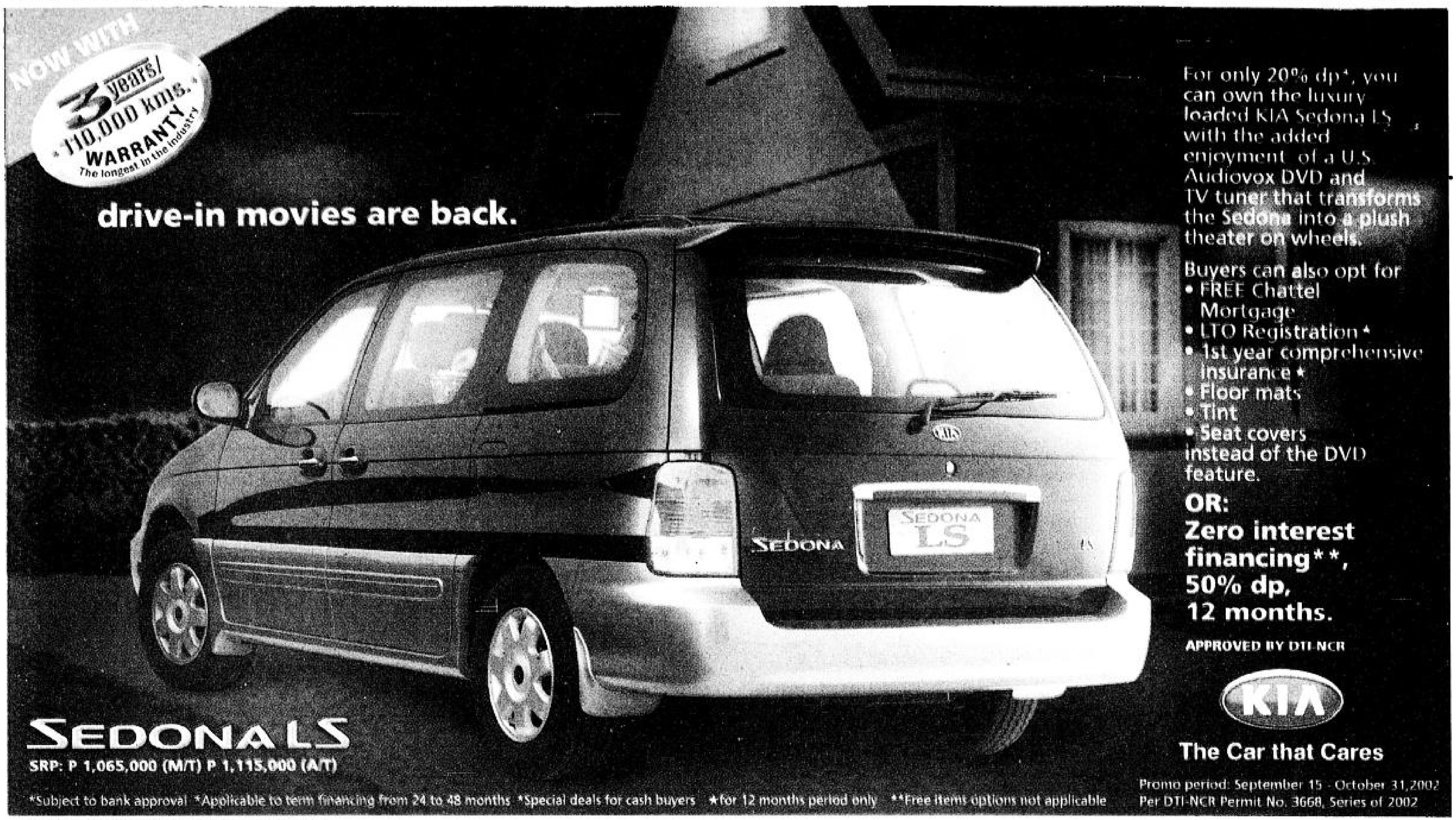
There are about 42,000 barangays all over the country, said Avenido, who disclosed the figures at the weekly Sulo Hotel media forum, giving an overall picture of the multibillion-peso underground industry the PDEA is up against.

But it's more than a war of numbers, he said. "In the anti-drug campaign, you're never sure who your friends or enemies are."

He was referring to the Sept. 29 escape of suspected drug lord Henry Tan from the PDEA detention center in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Tan reportedly managed to saw off the iron window grills of his cell. At least 10 PDEA officials relieved after the incident are now under investigation.

At the same forum, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said the country's legal system needs to catch up with the narco trade's sophisticated level of operations. *Volt Contreras*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11. There is no limit to how many times a passenger can win the prize.
12. Winners will shoulder tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00, and all other applicable travel taxes, insurance surcharge, and other incidental airport charges and travel expenses.
13. Prizes may be claimed at the nearest Cebu Pacific organic ticket offices within 60 days from notification. In the Philippines: Manila Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Hypermart Head Office, Robinsons Galleria Ticket Office, NAIA Ticket Booth, Cebu Airport Ticket Office, Cebu Midtown Hotel Ticket Office, Bacolod Airport Ticket Office. In Singapore: The Amara.
14. Trips must be flown on or before March 05, 2003.
15. Winners must present registered mail together with any of the following valid ID with picture: School ID, Company ID, TIN Card, SSS Card, Credit card, or Passport.
16. All travels are not valid during embargo dates: Oct 30 to Nov 04 (All Saint's Day), Dec 15-24 (Christmas) & Jan 30 to Feb 4, 2003 (Chinese New Year)

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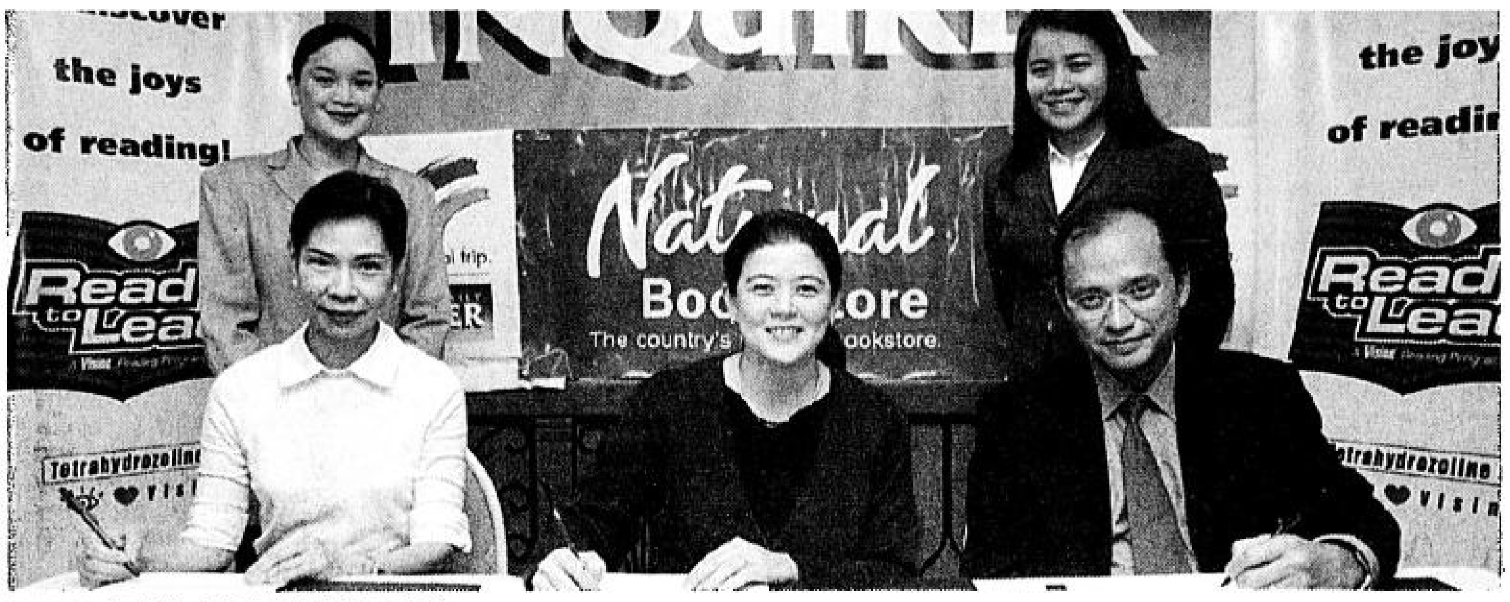

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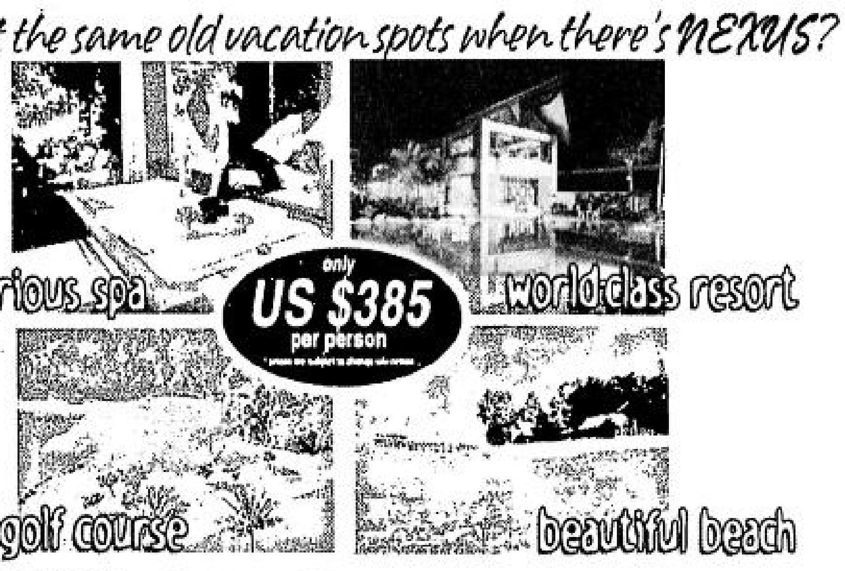

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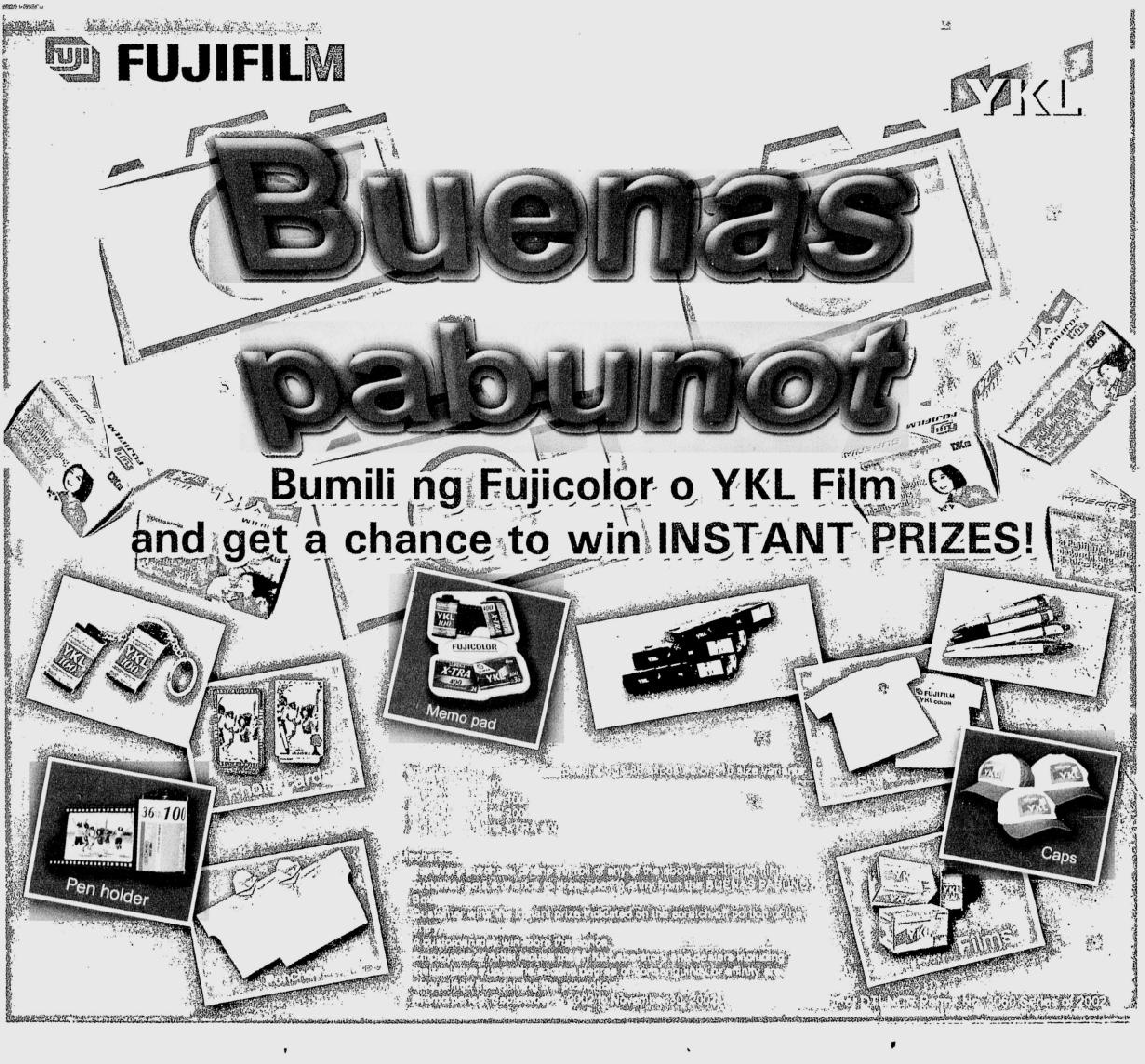
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SM, PLDT help gov't snare tax cheats

By Clarissa S. Batino

GIANT companies SM Group and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. were among the firms that provided the Bureau of Internal Revenue with third-party information that helped snare, so far, 616 companies found to have understated their value-added tax (VAT) liabilities.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the BIR had worked with about 250, mostly large, taxpayers that turned over official receipts from thousands of suppliers, enabling the government to track down those that had cheated on their taxes.

"Henry Sy's SM was one of the first ones to give us information, together with PLDT," the finance chief said.

Official receipts from suppliers could be used as tax deductions by a company. But the suppliers that issued the receipts should declare the sales as part of their own taxable revenues, on which the 10 percent VAT and other taxes are based.

The third-party information enabled the BIR to check which suppliers remitted accurate taxes, and which ones understated their revenues.

Camacho stressed, however, that providing crucial information to the BIR does not give a company immunity from being similarly audited.

The BIR started using third-party information to track down VAT evaders during the time of former commissioner Rene Bañez.

Bañez piloted the intensive VAT audit in the Valenzuela area, where 312 companies were found to have understated their VAT liabilities by about P4 billion.

The audit was subsequently expanded to include Manila and Quezon City. Current BIR chief Guillermo Parayno has placed the latest count of VAT cheats at 616 firms, and their total liabilities at more than P12 billion—up from P9 billion "when we were just talking of 600 companies."

Parayno's office sent demand letters to the 600 firms in the middle of September and gave them a month to correct their tax deficiencies.

The companies were ordered to immediately pay at least three percent in VAT and two percent in income taxes.

Initially, the BIR chief said, this would give the government some P600 million "by Oct. 15."

Parayno said the bureau is now reviewing the VAT payments of more than 200,000 companies." We are getting good feedback from this program," he said.

Companies understating their tax liabilities that have not been found out should take advantage of a temporary amnesty currently in effect, Parayno said.

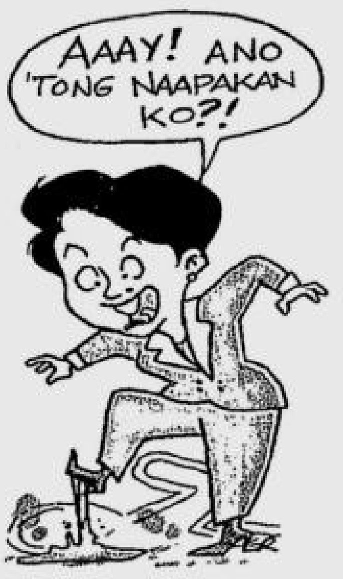
"I want to give them a chance to pay the right taxes before we catch them. Once we do, it would be more difficult for them," said the BIR chief who took his oath only last Aug. 30.

BIR collections accounted for 80 percent of the government's annual cash requirement. The bureau's huge shortfall during the first eight months of the year had been blamed for the national budget's P144.033-billion deficit.

Parayno said collections for the month of September reached only P27 billion, against a target of P32 billion—for a total shortfall of P46 billion at the end of the third quarter.

'Ma'am, please don't step on the evidence'

By Christian V. Esguerra


AAAY! ANO 'TONG NAAPAKAN KO?!

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo would do the police a bigger favor by not visiting crime scenes.

A University of the Philippines forensic pathologist yesterday warned that indiscriminate access given non-investigators—including Ms Macapagal—to crime scenes could bungle police work.

"The President's (presence in areas of police operations lately) shows unprofessionalism in the gathering of evidence in this country," Dr. Racquel Fortun told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Last Sept. 18, the President rushed to Gen. Trias in Cavite after the supposed shootout between police and alleged kidnappers Diosdado Santos, Eugene Radam, and Rodolfo Patinio. The slain suspects had also been tagged in the Baron Cervantes murder case.

Less than a month before that, Ms Macapagal had allowed herself to be photographed beside the body of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar, who had been killed in another reported shootout with police in Magallanes, Cavite.

To avoid the mishandling of evidence, especially in such controversial cases as these two shootings, Fortun said, police should secure the crime scene from kibitzers, the media and even the country's highest official.

Probers should ensure utmost efficiency in the handling of evidence, she explained. In short, she said, "The crime scene is sacred (ground)."

Fortun is currently lobbying for the approval of a bill recently filed in Congress that would require the autopsy of bodies involved in violent deaths. She said mandatory autopsies would help quickly solve cases where foul play is suspected.

Under current police procedures, a body cannot be autopsied if the victim's family refuses.

If the bill is passed, Fortun said, the next crucial question would be, who should conduct the autopsy?

Maybe the Department of Health, she suggested. "Definitely it should not be the police."

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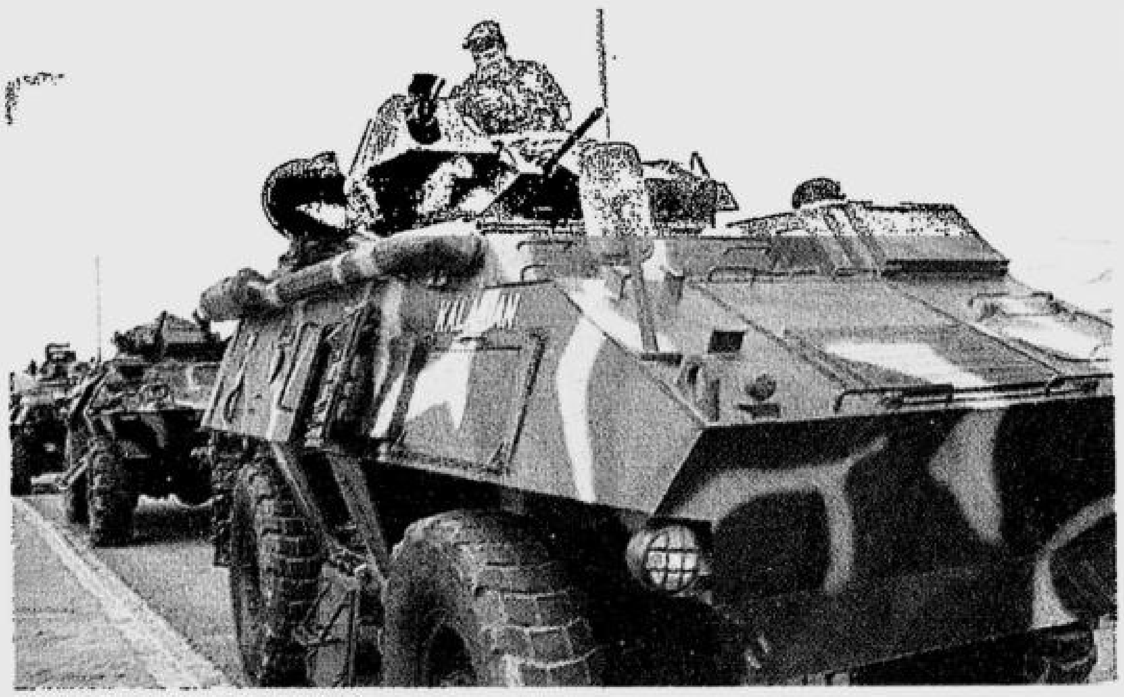

MAYBE NOW WE'LL WIN
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor sits atop the first-ever Philippine-made armored vehicle called the "Kalakian", at Camp O'Donnel in Capas, Tarlac. The fighting vehicle has a crew of four and can accommodate up to 12 soldiers. It has a maximum speed of 100 kilometers per hour. ROMY HOMILLADA

Mideast oil execs assure RP of supply

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos said Friday he has been assured by oil company officials in at least three Middle Eastern countries of a continuous supply of oil to the Philippines should war break out between the United States and Iraq.

Ramos, who returned Thursday after leading a Filipino trade mission to the Middle East, said oil executives in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar made the commitments to him.

"I met with oil officials in the three countries and they gave me their support for the country's oil security," Ramos said.

The former President, who had been appointed ambassador at large by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has left the country again for the semestral meeting of the International Crisis Group in the US. *Norman Bordadora*

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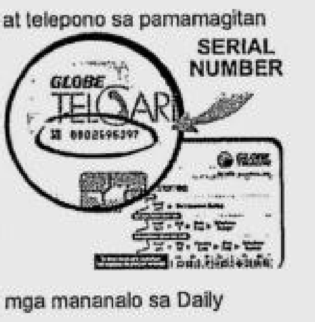
Mechanics

PROMO DURATION

GAWAIN	PETSA
Promo Period	Oct. 15 to Dec. 15, 2002
Daily Raffle Draws	Oct. 22 to Dec. 22, 2002
Grand Raffle Draw	Dec. 27, 2002

PAANO SUMALI?



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4. TUMAWAG NANG TUMAWAG upang mas malaki ang pagkakataon mong manalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.

PAANO PIPILIIN ANG MANANALO?

1. Mula sa listahan ng mga tumawag, gamit ang Electronic Raffle, pipiliin ang mga mananalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.
2. Ang Raffle Draw ay gaganapin araw-araw, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, tuwing 2:00 ng hapon, sa 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City.
3. Mahuhuli ng isang (1) linggo ang Raffle Draw; samantalang 3 araw pagkatapos nito ang paglalathala ng mga nanalo sa piling mga dyaryo.
4. Kapag napili na ang nanalong entry:
   - Susuriing mabuti ng Globe, Logika at ng DTI representative kung ang nanalo ay pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion. Ang tumawag para magpa-rehistro at ang taong may hawak ng Telcard ang ituturing na may-ari.
   - Magpapadala ng liham ang Globe sa nanalo upang malaman niya kung paano, saan at kailan puedeng makuha ang premyo.
   - Magsasagawa ng karagdagang pagsusuri ang Globe bago ibigay ang premyo.
5. Ang mga nanalo at hindi nanalong entries sa Daily Draws ay hindi na kasama sa susunod pang mga Daily Draws; ngunit ang ibang entries na hindi pa napipili ay kasama sa Grand Raffle Draw.

MGA PREMYO

1. **Daily Raffle Draws - Oct. 22 hanggang Dec. 22, 2002**
   - **Isang (1) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash araw-araw**
2. **Grand Raffle Draw - Dec. 27, 2002**
   - **1st Prize - P 100,000 in cash**
   - **2nd Prize - P 50,000 in cash**
   - **3rd Prize - P 25,000 in cash**
   - **Consolation Prizes: Sampung (10) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash**

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   - Liham mula sa Globe
2. Kung ang napiling nanalo ay menor de edad (18 taon pababa), ito ang dapat gawin:
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4. Ang premyo ay maaaring makuha sa mga sumusunod na lugar:
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   - Visayas winners – Marketing Department, 14/F Globe-Isla Marketing Plaza, Panay Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
5. Ang 20% tax para sa lahat ng mga premyong ipamimigay na higit sa P10,000.00 ay sasagutin ng Globe; ngunit ang alin mang karagdagang taxes o gastos ay sasagutin ng nanalo.
6. Ang mga empleyado ng Globe, Islacom, Logika at Lityan Philippines, kasama ng kanilang mga kamag-anakan (up to second degree of consanguinity o affinity), ay hindi pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion.

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Para sa mga karagdagang detalye, tumawag lamang sa 1-800-8-TELCARD (1-800-8-8352273) o basahin lamang ang flyers.

For promo updates and the list of everyday winners, please read the Philippine Star or tune in to 101.1 YES! FM.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Sokor cagers cruise to semis

BUSAN, South Korea—South Korea cruised into the semifinals of the Asian Games men's basketball tournament with a 101-58 rout of Hong Kong here Sunday to complete the final four lineup. Kazakhstan advanced as a result of the South Korean triumph while Asian champion and defending champion China and Philippines had already secured semifinal berths. · AFP

ASIAN GAMES

A bowling silver, golf bronze for RP

Bata suffers yet another setback

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Efren "Bata" Reyes lost again yesterday, but the bowlers won the country's second silver medal and the lady golfers saved a bronze in the 14th Asian Games here.

While rains poured outside like cats and dogs that forced organizers to cancel six indoor events, the men's trio of Botchok Rey, Chester King and C.J. Suarez pounded the lanes with impunity to score a come-from-behind finish and grab the silver over the hosts they had accused of trying to rig the Games.

And then with the lady golfers dishing out the Filipino's tested resiliency when challenged by mother nature, they hung on to club home the bronze in team play at the wind-swept, rain-soaked Asiad Country Club.

Golf scholar Ria Denise Quiazon, majoring in American Studies at the UC-Berkeley in California, anchored the country's bronze finish with a wet 77 after a third-round 71 that was preceded by a 72.

"I did the best I could under such conditions, but of course no alibis," said Quiazon, a beauteous 21-year-old with a movie star smile and a whistle bait, Miss Universe figure. "The rains made it harder for all of us today and I am glad I was able to hang in there. This is for the country."

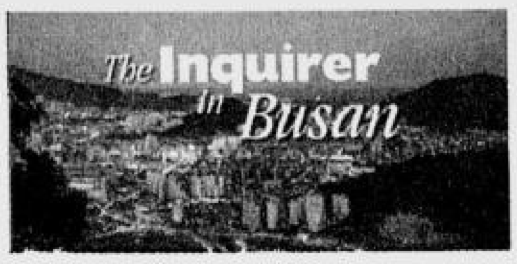
The 5-foot-9 Quiazon, then a raw 17-year-old, was also a member of the bronze-winning team in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad that also included Dorothy Delasin and Jennifer Rosales, now both pros campaigning in the US LPGA.

"Ria preserved our tradition of not losing a medal since we joined the Asian Games beginning in the 1986 Seoul Asiad," said Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, who personally acted as forecaddy for Ramon Brobio when the then 16-year-old

A BOWLING/ A28

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

More Asian Games stories on A27, A28, A29, A31, A32



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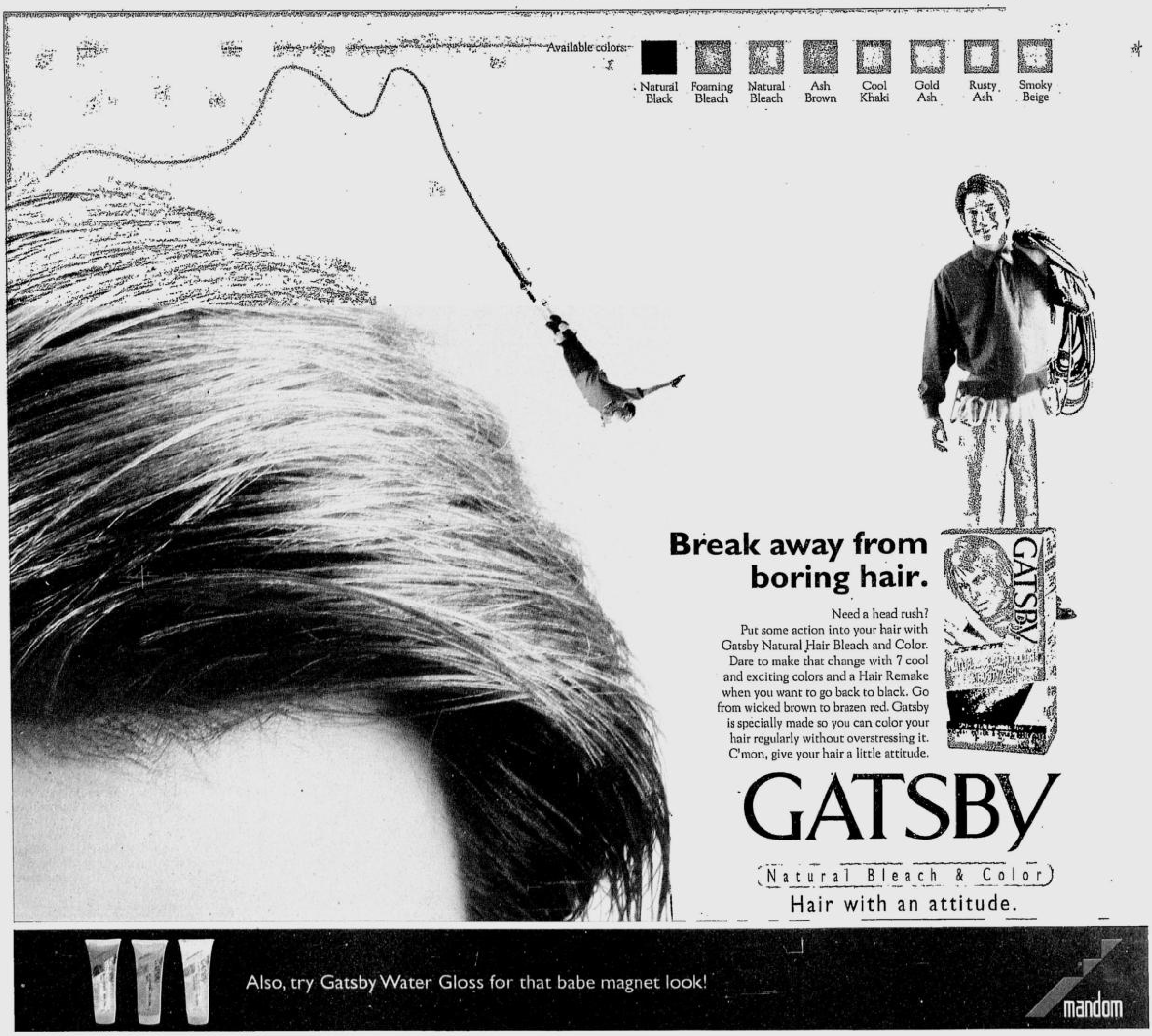
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HAIL MARY SQUAD

Eagles celebrate title with a Mass

By Ruel S. De Vera

IMMEDIATELY after their rousing 77-70 Game 3 victory over arch-rival the De La Salle Green Archers, the Ateneo Blue Eagles celebrated their long-awaited UAAP championship in the best style possible—meaningfully, in a prayer, surrounded by their ardent supporters.

Ateneo's new Church of the Gesu was packed with students, alumni and well-wishers, many of them having made to commute from the Araneta Coliseum Saturday night. Hundreds of blue-garbed fans broke into applause upon the arrival of the visibly tired but happy Blue Eagles.

The thanksgiving Mass followed the praying of the Rosary. In his homily, Fr. Carmelo Caluag, S.J., one of the team's most trusted advisers, lauded the Blue Eagles' efforts and made particular mention of the five Eagles who had just concluded their final playing year: UAAP MVP Enrico Villanueva; point guard Marco Benitez; tough Narciso "Sonny" Tadeo, whom Fr. Caluag called "the veteran rookie"; hard-nosed Andrew Cruz; veteran guard Christopher "Epok" Quimpo and cool George "Jec" Chia who had saved the Blue Eagles' season with his improbable buzzer-beater versus the University of the East in the Final Four.

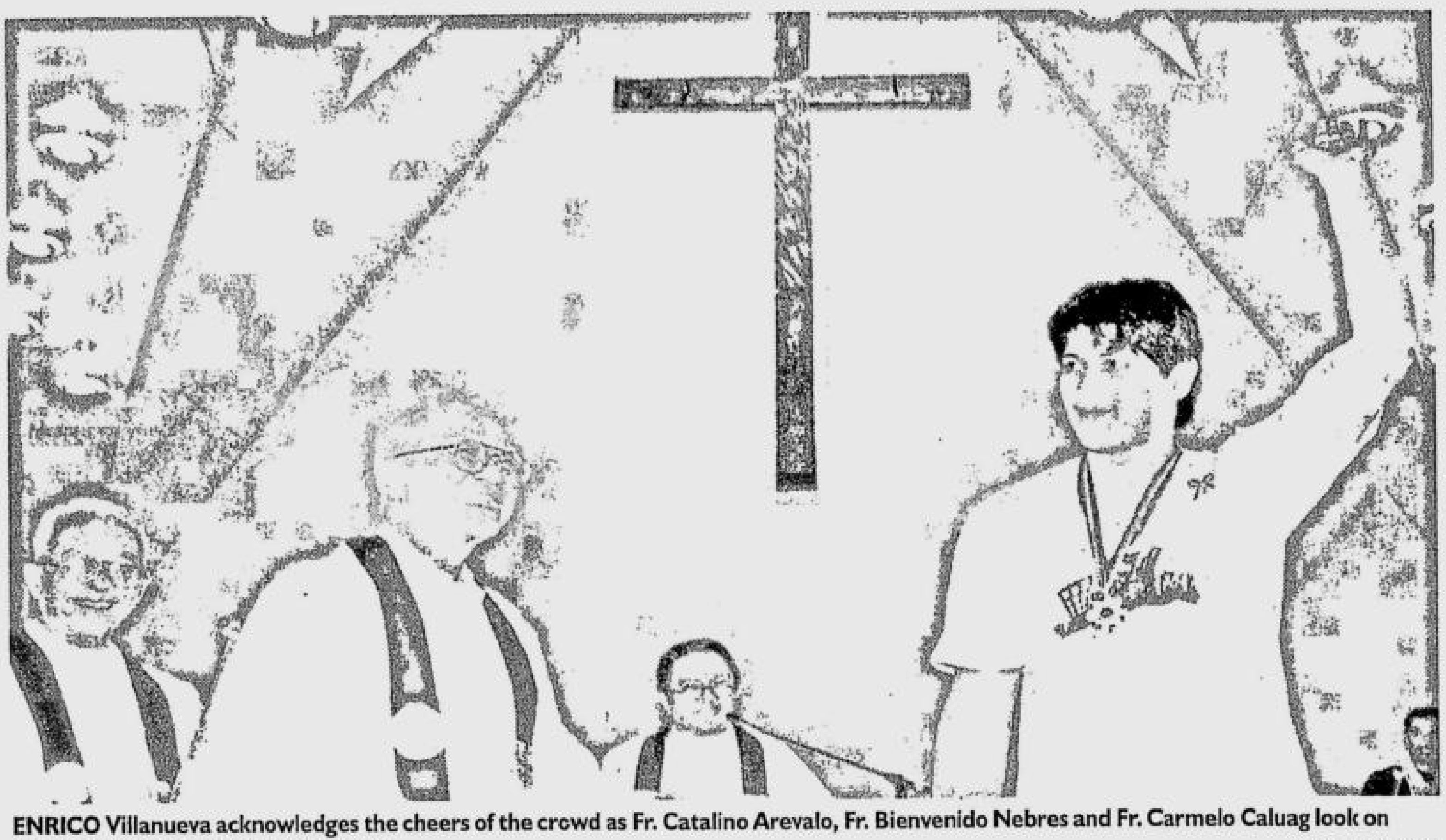
Jesuit hymn

The Blue Eagles read during the Mass and carried the offering baskets during the Offertory. The players even joined in the singing of one of their favorite Jesuit hymns. The Blue Eagles then received their individual championship medals and signed a book that would include the names of all Ateneans competing in athletic or academic competition. The crowd then rose to give their champions a standing ovation. The applause was notably heavy for first-year coach Joel Banal.

"I was excited to be the coach of a team that had a 14-year drought," Banal explained, "Nothing to lose, everything to gain. That was an inspiration for me."

He added: "The heart of an Atenean is bigger than his chest. And we proved it. The Ateneo administration showed us how much they wanted it by quartering us."

In the days leading up to the game, the Blue Eagle coaches and players stayed together at the Linden Suites in Ortigas. "We were eating together, having fun together. And the players responded well. That was crucial," said Banal



ENRICO Villanueva acknowledges the cheers of the crowd as Fr. Catalino Arevalo, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and Fr. Carmelo Caluag look on during the Ateneo thanksgiving mass.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

THE LA SALLE squad stands tall despite the defeat.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Banal explained that the Eagles' solid, half-court defense spelled the key in game three. "We spent the season trying to figure out how to defeat La Salle." He added that they drew confidence from their second round win over La Salle. "They learned from playing in the finals last year."

Bannered by Blue Eagles, the Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation team also took the title in the last PBL conference.

Sweet victory

The victory was undoubtedly sweet for Villanueva. The 6-foot-5 slotman finally had his championship, and in the process also pocketed the UAAP MVP four years after he won the Rookie of the Year award as a freshman.

The victory was also unforgettable for players such as Tadeo, who returned after a playing hiatus of several years, Quimpo, who had waited for the right time to make his mark, and Chia, who had risen from hotshot intramural hero to slippery primetime assassin.

Wesley Gonzales, LA Tenorio, Rich Alvarez and Larry Fonacier delivered sterling performances during the rubber-match, repeatedly repulsing a determined La Salle side. Green Archers Adonis Sta. Maria and BJ Manalo teamed up to try and keep pace with a confident Ateneo quintet. But Gonzales, who had returned after a one-year absence from the team and had been playing well against the Archers, defied the Green-and-White shield, scattering 16 points.

Banal delivered one final master stroke by putting the 6-foot-3 Alvarez on 6-foot King Archer Mike Cortez during crunch time. "We knew Cortez would try to take charge." Cortez was limited to 13 points on 2-of-13 shooting. "The boys really defended well."

University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., spoke highly of the newly-minted UAAP champions. "We have been working really hard for it. At the start of the season, we had hope but then, when we were at four wins and five losses, we were given up for dead."

Answered prayer

Not only did they win, they won with character. They came back and did not give up. What the team always said was they prayed with faith, courage and for victory." He added that the entire Ateneo community was proud of the Blue Eagles, who not only won their first title in 14 years but also ended La Salle's four-year title streak. "We have always been behind them, even during the low point."

The Blue Eagles completed their title odyssey by overcoming the odds. After losing key rotation players Benedicto "Magnum" Membrere and Paolo Bugia to torn ACLs during the past PBL conference, the Blue Eagles started the 65th UAAP season well.

After losing three straight games, the Hail Mary Squad were on the brink of elimination from the Final Four when they reeled off eight straight wins.

Fonacier's two blocks off Mac Cardona sealed a scintillating 72-70 game one win for the Blue Eagles while a killer performance from Cortez leveled the series with an 85-77 La Salle win in Game Two.

Completing the Blue Eagle lineup were Christian Joy "Badjie" del Rosario, Hernando "JR" Elmido, Mark Anthony "Macky" Escalona, John "JC" Intal, Doug Kramer and Conrad "Dom" Banal.

The Ateneo fans stayed long after the Blue Eagles had left for the Linden Suites. There, they witnessed the clouds of 14 years parting as the shards of lights sprang into the air, the blue sparks rising highest and burning brightest that evening.

La Salle: 'We had a good run over the years'

By Dennis U. Eroa

A NIGHT after losing to arch-rival Ateneo, Terry Capistrano, La Salle's soft-spoken team manager woke up with a wonderful, upbeat feeling.

No pain, no tears.

"We had a good run over the years. It was extremely difficult to defend a championship year in and year out," Capistrano, a respected businessman, said.

La Salle was aiming to better the four-peat registered by University of Santo Tomas from 1993-96.

Known for his zen-like demeanor, Capistrano isn't going to hide the fact that Ateneo emerged as the better team in Game Three of the best-of-three championship series held before a passionate crowd last Saturday at the Big Dome.

Playing with intensity, Ateneo, which lost to La Salle in last year's series, ended 14 years of frustration by downing La Salle, 77-70, in the no-more tomorrow match.

The euphoria of Ateneo's rebirth reverberated strongly on the walls of basketball greatness.

"I'm happy for the Eagles and I would like to offer my congratulations," Capistrano said. "Simply put, Ateneo beat us in the decider."

Capistrano said they initially felt lousy after losing, but the Archers were stunned to see some 1,000 supporters waiting to party with them at the Alfonso Yuchengco Hall.

"Winners never feel good when they lose," Capistrano said. "I'm really delighted with the tremendous support we received after the game. It was incredible. The party wasn't a wake, it was a some sort of a despedida."

La Salle's setback came as a shock to basketball disciples.

The Archers zoomed to a 13-0 mark, but lost to the Eagles in the final day of elimination, 76-63. La Salle, then, failed to check Ateneo's soaring confidence in the titular series.

Capistrano's attitude mirrored the Archers' demeanor after their collapse.

Coach Franz Pumaren and his coaching staff gamely shook the hands of triumphant Joel Banal.

BJ Manalo, a former Ateneo high school star, embraced Enrico Villanueva tightly unmindful of the jubilation around him.

Last year, Villanueva, his eyes cloudy with emotions, also found solace in the arms of his former teammate after losing a gallant battle with La Salle.

"It was painful but life must go on," said the 21-year-old Manalo. "We'll emerge stronger after this experience."

The Archers will now focus their sight on the coming PBL wars. Mike Cortez and Mark Cardona, who lost their sting in the decider, plus the likes of Manalo and man-mountain Carlo Sharma will also try to give La Salle its first PBL crown.

Ateneo, which hinted of things to come by topping the Challenge Cup, is also seeing action and will parade the same UAAP championship team.

Iverson injures middle finger

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pennsylvania—For the second straight year, Allen Iverson will miss the National Basketball Association preseason with an injury.

The superstar guard of the Philadelphia 76ers suffered a fractured right middle finger in practice Friday and will be sidelined two to four weeks, putting his return for the season opener in jeopardy.

In addition, swingman Greg Buckner suffered a sprained knee ligament in practice and will be out four to six weeks.

Iverson was examined by doctors at University Orthopedics of State College on the Penn State campus. He will be examined Saturday by 76ers team physician Jack McPhilemy, who will determine a course of action.

A three-time scoring champion and a notoriously quick healer, Iverson missed 22 games due to injury last season, including the last 14 with a broken left hand. He sat out training camp and the first five games of the regular season. *AFP*

4th Ucap-Phoenix derby slated

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "4th Ucap Phoenix 7-Stag Derby," slated this coming Tuesday and Thursday (Oct. 8 and 10) will be hosted by Ucap mainstay Mario Villamor. Sagupaan Super Feeds, Pagcor and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc. are derby sponsors.

Participants are reminded that submission of entries is set today, Monday, Oct. 7 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Other details may be obtained by calling 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Last week, three entries shared the crown of the "3rd Ucap Anito Calvin Dominador 7-Stag Derby." With identical 6-1 (win-loss) cards are OPMI president Vic Yu (King Boxer), hotelier Biboy Enriquez (Firebird II) and lawyer Ram Lopez and Bobby Wong (Flyover).

In the hotly contested "Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2002" race, Yu's King Boxer entry (15.5 points) vaulted into the top spot to share the lead with engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB).

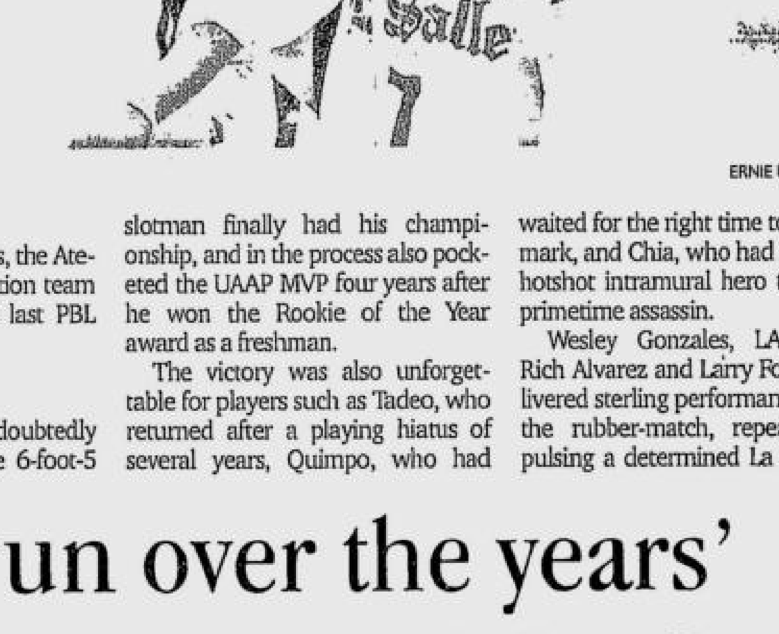
The Stagfighter winner will be known on Oct. 22 and 24, during the "6th Ucap LCC Leonard 7-Stag Derby" to be hosted by Louie Cua. The 5th Ucap Sir Vincent/Guts and Glory 7-Stag Derby."

Shio LCC seeks 3rd straight victory

BACK-TO-BACK winner "Shio LCC" of Louie Cua, the soft-spoken council member of the National Cockers Association, seeks its third straight victory today at the resumption of the NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Arenta Coliseum.

Selected stags screened by NCA Ucap Balbina NGBA, GF and Migba are entered in the derby hosted by popular lawyer and former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and Alan Tan.

The top-heavy entries include Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, Gov. Ito Ynares, Frank Berin, the Firefly Group, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Jet Bernardo, Rudy Salud, James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco, Rep. Claude Bautista, Mario Villamor and Boy Jiao and Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla.



SUPER BIKE BET

Nikki Romero of Club 200-R-II Builders Racing Team shows the way in this bit of action in the Shell Advance Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Romero, who is also being supported by Azurro Restaurant and A-toy Custom Paints, topped the pivotal ninth round.

Pippen hurting, too

TUALATIN, Oregon—Portland Trail Blazers captain Scottie Pippen will miss at least 10 days of practice with swelling in his right knee.

He had surgery on the knee in June to have bone chips removed and needed another operation because of an infection.

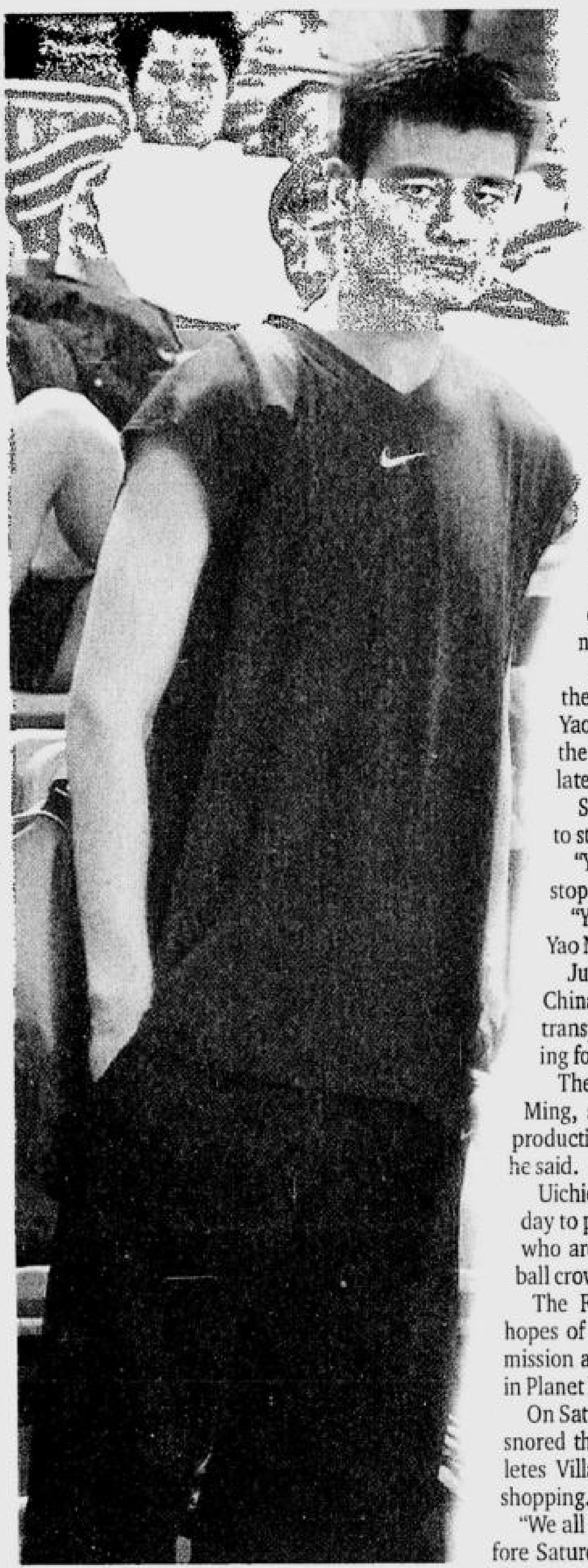
The 37-year-old Pippen, ordered to skip practice by team orthopedist Don Roberts, might miss all of training camp. He also could be sidelined for the Oct. 30 season opener against the Los Angeles Lakers. *AP*

NBA

Did you know that Michael Jordan holds the NBA record for most free throw attempts in one half of an NBA game with 23 (against the tough Miami Heat in 1992)? Jordan also once made 23 free throws in a single game, which is second to Bob Cousy's 30 in the record books.

ASIAD BASKETBALL

No one can stop Yao Ming—Uichico



YAO MING JESS YUSON

'Chinese star capable of scoring 100 points'

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—A day before the Philippines battles China in basketball, the thought of Yao Ming's invincibility keeps twirling in Jong Uichico's mind.

"In my opinion, no one can stop Yao Ming one-on-one," said Uichico, head coach of the Philippine quintet. "He's capable of scoring, exaggeratedly, 100 points because he's so dominating and he can beat you that easy."

Yao Ming is China's latest addition to the NBA after Wang Zhi Zhi. At 7-foot-5, Yao Ming will become the tallest player in the NBA when the league's season starts late this month.

Someone asked Uichico: "Is there a way to stop Yao Ming?"

"You may stop Yao Ming but can you also stop the others?" he said.

"You can stop the others but how about Yao Ming? So it's gonna be tough, really."

Just days ago, Menk Bateer, another of China's behemoths at 7-foot-2, was also transported to the NBA. Bateer is also playing for China here.

The only thing a team can do against Yao Ming, said Uichico, is minimize Yao Ming's production. "So, everybody is focused on him," he said.

Uichico's boys went back to the gym yesterday to pursue their game plan for the Chinese, who are heavily favored to retain the basketball crown for the fifth straight time.

The Filipinos will practice again today in hopes of trying to solve the Chinese puzzle—a mission as impossible as man's search for water in Planet Pluto.

On Saturday, the Filipinos had a day-off. Some snored the day away, others relaxed at the Athletes Village's lounge areas and the rest went shopping.

"We all need some time off," said Uichico. "Before Saturday, we've been practicing twice a day. The boys badly needed that break."

Basketball

Except for that win against Japan, the three other victories for the Philippines came in a breeze—against the United Arab Emirates, North Korea and Chinese Taipei.

But Uichico took the Japan 79-74 squeaker on a positive note. "In all our previous games, we almost never fell back as we led all the way," said Uichico. "Against Japan, we came from behind to win. That's a good sign because it means we can come back when we are down."

He cited the setbacks in the tuneup games in Italy where the Filipinos never really managed to come close after falling behind.

"That restored our confidence," said Uichico of RP's come-from-behind win over Japan last week, which preceded the 83-69 Philippine victory over Chinese Taipei.

In the event the improbable happens and the Philippines will upset China tomorrow, the Filipinos may yet have a light assignment in its next game—paving the way for an easy passage into the finals.

A loss to China would most likely mean the Philippines, bronze medalist in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, would be pitted against South Korea for the right to battle for the gold.

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

ASIAN GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	92	38	32	162
Korea	32	37	45	114
Japan	28	42	36	106
Kazakhstan	9	7	11	27
D.P.R. Korea	6	8	10	24
Thailand	5	8	3	16
Chinese Taipei	5	7	13	25
Uzbekistan	5	6	7	18
Singapore	4	2	3	9
Hong Kong	3	3	6	12
Malaysia	2	4	3	9
India	2	3	2	7
Vietnam	2	2	2	6
Indonesia	1	5	4	10
Iran	1	2	9	12
Philippines	1	2	6	9
Bahrain	1	1	1	3
Lebanon	0	1	1	2
Myanmar	0	3	5	8
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
Turkmenistan	0	2	1	3
United Arab Emirates	0	0	2	2
Mongolia	0	1	8	9
Pakistan	0	1	4	5
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Syria	0	0	1	1
Qatar	0	0	1	1

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A rhyme in the rain

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—It rained all day yesterday, a first since the Asian Games began on Sept. 28. It felt like I hadn't left home.

No winds, though. Just rain, continuous rain.

But the real big difference was, unlike Manila, this city never gets flooded.

"Our drainage system is built according to world standards," said a Games official. "The rains flow into giant sewers that cascade down into giant tunnels underneath us all the way into spillways."

You can believe that because over here, you see malls and shopping areas underground. The subway train system works in clockwork precision.

Really First World all over. Even its port is that clean you rarely see a fly. No foul smell even as ships and virtually all kinds of sea crafts crowd the pier. Now I know why this city is now one of the busiest—if not the busiest—ports in the world.

I had lunch one time at the fish market consisting of fish and sea shells; never were my nostrils attacked by any foul odor at any time. Superbly clean and odor-free, I tell you.

Perhaps, the floods don't come because of the mountains. Over here, you see mountains all over. This place is like a bowl. At the center is the city surrounded by mountains.

Do you know that Korea (people here don't call South Korea South Korea) is 70 percent mountains?

Whether you are in the city or outside of it, you see mountains. They embrace the city the way a mother embraces her new-born child.

And this you've got to believe: Green are the mountains.

The Asiad Country Club where the golf competition was held is surrounded by mountains bursting with life: Green all over.

"In Busan," said an elderly person serving as a volunteer in golf, "you see pine trees everywhere. That's because the mountain is home of the pine."

The golf course is almost a replica of Camp John Hay: rolling terrain, nippy weather during this time of year as autumn is near.

Face the north from the clubhouse and you see a towering mountain that is much like Mayon Volcano with its near-perfect cone. Its name is Tal Eum San, Korean for Moon Mountain because, according to the elderly volunteer who is a retired English teacher, "it sometimes glows in the night, especially if it's full moon."

With all its grandeur, Moon Mountain can move poets to pine for a rhyme.

Ah, I wish I could write one for the Filipino Athlete. You think "crying in the rain" would come along fine?

Chief of mission Carrasco: Roving Man

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Being the chief of mission for the Philippine delegation to the 14th Asian Games is far from easy.

Just ask Tom Carrasco, he's the most traveled guy here. The Roving Man.

From morning to evening, he makes it a point to visit most of the venues where Filipino athletes are competing. Giving them moral support, exhorting them to do their best.

A typical day would see him go to at least five of the competition venues, which are usually at least 10 kilometers away from each other. His itinerary also includes side trips to the Main Press Center, the Athletes' Village and the Asian Games headquarters.

It helped that the Busan Asian Games Organizing Committee has provided him as chief of mission a chauffeured taxi, yes a taxi, to take him wherever he pleases.

"It's my responsibility to see how our athletes are doing," said Carrasco yesterday. "It's tiring, but it's fulfilling especially when our athletes are doing well."

Just like Friday night, when he and other Philippine delegation officials stayed to watch the pursuers of Paeng Nepomuceno and Rowen Jay Bautista fail in their bid to topple the Filipinos' score in the men's double of the bowling competitions.

"Sana, bubulusok na tayo," said Carrasco. That would make heavy traffic in the main streets during rush hours more bearable.

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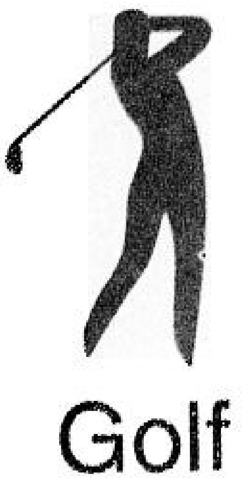
ASIAD GOLF

RP loses Quiazon to World Golf tilt

Ladies off Oct. 12, men's team following six days later

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The country's top finisher in the Asian Games golf competition will not represent the country in the World Amateur Golf Championship set later this month in Malaysia.



Ria Denise Quiazon, the best performing Filipino parbuster here, will not join the Philippine team to Malaysia due to her studies at the UC-Berkeley, San Francisco, California, where she is a golf scholar.

The 21-year-old, 5-foot-9 Quiazon finished fifth overall after shooting a 77 in the rain yesterday that was still good enough to anchor the women's team to a bronze-medal victory.

Quiazon's finish soothed the wounded feelings of Filipino golf officials here in the face of the men's team's totally unexpected collapse.

The teammates of Quiazon, also a member of the bronze-medal winning team in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, are Heidi Chua and Carmelette Villaroman.

Taking Quiazon's place in Soujana, Malaysia, is Aileen Rose Yao, who is here as an alternate.

Angelo Que, Juvic Pagunsan, Jerome Delariarte and Marlon Dizon, who did not perform well as a team as they finished way below the standings, will most likely compose the men's team to the World Amateurs.

"It's too late to revamp the team now," said an official. "We will just have to charge everything to experience."

The World Amateurs this year will adopt the new format of three male players competing with the best two scores for the day counting, from the usual four-to-play, three-to-count format. "That's to speed up play," said the same team official.

Admiral Louie Fernandez, vice president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, will head the Philippine delegation to the so-called Olympics of golf scheduled to start just one week after the Asian Games' conclusion on Oct. 14.

QUIAZON putts in the pouring rain.

AFP

POC chief hopeful

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—"We're over the hump."

This is what Philippine Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit told sportswriters covering the 14th Asian Games yesterday.

Dayrit was referring to the first gold medal won by the Philippines here through the combined effort of Paeng Nepomuceno and Rowen Jay Bautista in the men's doubles of the bowling competition.

"The Games is not even halfway and yet we have match our gold output during the 1998 Bangkok Asiad," said Dayrit. "My gut feel is there are more to come."

"Overall we're hopeful of meeting our target. We still have a lot of events left. We should just wait and continue to pray for our athletes," Dayrit added.

The POC has set its sights on a low of 4 to a high of 7 gold medals before the Philippine delegation left for this port city.

Dayrit is hoping that billiards would deliver at least one gold medal and bowling two or three more.

Archers miss target

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Filipino archers were way off target yesterday at the start of archery competitions in the 14th Asian Games at the Gangseo Archery Field.

All but one, Marvin Cordero, were deep down on the rankings after the preliminary rounds, hinting of another medal shutout for the Philippines.

The 19-year-old Cordero, reigning National Open titlist scored a 646 to rank third after the men's FITA 90m and 70m round.

His teammates failed to provide support, however, with Christian Cubilla placing 23rd with 622, Florante Matan 41st (592) and Arnold Reyes 42nd (590) to pull down the Philippines to sixth in the team competitions with a 1,858 aggregate. South Korea, behind individual pacesetter Kim Kyong-ho, tallied a 1,952.

Buenavista takes crack at 10,000m run

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Barely 5-foot-tall, Eduardo Buenavista looks more of a courier than a runner. Like a boy who'd wandered at the track oval to play catch-and-tag.

Make no mistake about him, however, Buenavista is the Philippines' top hope for a medal when centerpiece athletics begins today in the Main Stadium of the 14th Asian Games here.

Though competing against rivals who are usually a foot taller, the 23-year-old marvel from Koronadal is one of the stronger bets in the men's 10,000-meter run which will be held today.

His coach, Mario Castro, is so confident of Buenavista's ability that he has allowed him to run at his own pace, according to Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok. "Nobody knows him better than himself. By experience, he already knows when to stay behind or pull ahead."

Actually, yanking Buenavista of the 3,000m steeplechase was more of a strategy. The steeplechase and the 5,000m, which Buenavista also entered, are just a day apart, whereas with the new schedule he gets a three-day break before seeing action again on Thursday.

Also lined up today are Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and Marestella Torres in the women's long jump and Ernie Candelario and John Lozada in the 400m and 800m run qualifying heats.

Aside from Castro, other members of the coaching staff are Romeo Gido, Dario de Rosas, AlexLigtas, Isidro del Prado and Beatriz Salvador.

3 tracksters will win, says Go Teng Kok

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Few believed athletics chief Go Teng Kok when he predicted a minimum of seven gold medals for Filipino tracksters in the 2001 Southeast Asian Games. He turned out to be right as they took nine.

Here in the 14th Asian Games, however, very few think the Filipinos stand a chance against the world-class Chinese and Japanese, not to mention the rising stars from the former Soviet republics and the Middle East.

Go thinks otherwise. He's betting on three of his wards—long distance runner Eduardo Buenavista, middle-distance specialist John Lozada and long jumper Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito—to snare a medal during the weeklong athletics competition at the Asiad Main Stadium.

Go is giving Buenavista a 90-percent chance of winning, Lozada 80 percent and Gabito 60 percent. That is, if they'd be able to approximate their personal bests in their respective disciplines.

"I've done a thorough study on the comparative performances of their prospective opponents so I know where my athletes stand," said Go. "We've given them the exposure, the training and the equipment. They are ready to deliver," said Go. "Let's hope they've hit form."

Buenavista, who'll be competing in the 10,000m run, sustained an injury on his right knee in August while Lozada was downed by the flu in September. Reasons why they failed to land medals in the last Asian Athletics Association Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

"It (AAA) was the best tuneup the Nationals could get because most of the competitors there would also be in Busan," said Go. "*Si John hinog na hinog na.*"

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

WARREN Kiamco raises his arms after bagging the silver medal in the 9-ball singles Saturday night.

JESS YUSON

A bowling silver . . .

From page A25

Brobio won the gold medal in Seoul. "As I'm still glad over Brobio's feat that remains unsurpassed to this day, I'd say I'm proud of Ria, too. She is our saviour, indeed."

Ria and her teammates' performance (Heidi Chua and Carmelette Villaroman) made up for the disappointing finish of the men's team composed of Angelo Que, Jerome Delariarte, Juvic Pagunsan and Marlon Dizon.

Que & Co., touted to win a medal if not equal the twin-silver feat scored in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, finished eighth overall in team play and came home empty-handed in individual play.

"The boys I guess were not totally focused for four days," said team captain Benny Gopez. "Look, Angelo scored a 70 on the last day and Jerome a 72 on the same day. Unfortunately, a golf competition would last four days."

The impact of Bata's loss was cushioned by the win of Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio Lining that shoved them into the 9-ball doubles set for today.

The duo beat Kuwait's Motaeri Khaleed and Al-Awade, 11-5, and positioned themselves to duplicate the golden feat scored in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad by Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva in the same event, which proved to be the country's lone gold medal in that Asiad.

The silver in bowling was wrapped in drama.

Down by 50 pins and fourth overall going into the homestretch, Rey, King and Suarez rallied mightily to nudge the South Koreans out of the silver tally by 43 pins, giving the Filipinos a share of the silver medal with the United Arab Emirates.

"Good for them (the hosts)," said Rey, who claimed the hosts tried to cheat their way to victory by creating man-made brownouts in a bid to derail the Filipinos' momentum at the height of their rally.

The silver made bowling as the leading medal-producer among 30 disciplines the country had entered into in the 16-day Games-adding the gold in the men's doubles of Paeng Nepomuceno and the bronze of Liza Clutario in the ladies singles.

"The cycle is complete-bronze, gold and silver," said an ecstatic Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress. "Today's silver proves that our gold from Paeng and RJ is no fluke."

The other silver came in the 9-ball billiards through Warren Kiamco Saturday night as the Filipinos totaled 1 gold, 2 silvers and 5 bronzes going into the last seven days of competition.

Reyes bowed to South Korean Hwang Deuk-hee, 33-50, in the 3-cushion carom, an event the 1999 world champion said was never his forte.

But billiards, which produced the country's lone gold medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, still remained a consistent medalist when Reynaldo Grandea barged into the semifinals of the 3-cushion carom, nipping Chinese Taipei's Yuan Yung-kuo, 50-49.

Boxing lost another when featherweight Roel Laguna bowed to his Thai opponent after leading in the first three rounds.

Laguna's defeat, hastened by the Filipino's sudden failure to heed his corner's orders to go all out in the last round, left only Romeo Brin, Harry Tanamor, Violito Payla, Anthony Igusquiza and Maraon Golez to carry the country's bid following also the exit of Ferdie Gamo and Christopher Camat earlier.

ROEL Laguna (right) of the Philippines jars Suthisak Samaksaman of Thailand with a left to the forehead.

AFP

Ladies save Pinoy golfers

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea–The ladies of Philippine golf, starring US-based Ria Denise Quiazon, brought home a bronze medal yesterday in the 14th Asian Games here.

The medal prevented a shutout but more than that, it somehow partially deflected the shameful showing of the men's team that was highly touted to win a bronze medal at the very least in both the individual and team plays.

Quiazon, hampered like the rest by driving rain almost all day, shot a 77 and lost her grip on the individual bronze medal as she dropped to fifth overall after totaling 1-under in the middle rounds.

The 21-year-old, 5-foot-9 beauty, whose figure and winsome smile easily makes her a shoo-in to win a beauty contest, was at 298 after four days of action; her days were decorated with 72-71 in the second and third rounds.

"I did my best but the breaks weren't there," said Quiazon, a golf scholar at the UC-Berkeley in San Francisco. "This is all for the country and I'm just so glad that I have contributed something in my own little way to our third-place finish."

Ai Miyazato rallied with a 70 to win the ladies gold at 286, followed by Korean Kim Joo Mi, who faltered with an 78 for 291. Park Wong Mi, another Korean, placed third with 71=293.

But the South Koreans snatched the team gold with 577, just two strokes ahead of runnerup Japan. The Philippines' 603 clinched the bronze.

Quiazon has to rush back to America via Seoul this morning to catch her mid-term exams. She was given a special exemption by her school to play here.

Two days ago, she e-mailed answers to her teachers in America to complete a take-home exam requirement–the day she scored an even-par 72 in the second round.

Her schooling was the major reason she couldn't join Heidi Chua and Carmelette Villaroman to the World Amateurs in Malaysia late this month.

Chua was the day's best scorer with a 76=308, with Villaroman, wearing short shorts in the rain-soaked Asiad Country Club, collapsing with an 80=313.

Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte saved some face by shooting 70 and 72, respectively, and Juvic Pagunsan contributed 79 for the RP men's team's sixth-place finish from eighth at the start of the day.

Que's big windup after earlier rounds of 74-77-82 gave him ninth overall at 303. Pagunsan was 13th (75-77-73-79=304), Delariarte 15th at 305 and Marlon Dizon 34th at 320.

It was a far cry from the silver medal finish scored by Gerald Rosales, Cookie La'O, Que and Rhey Luna in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad where Rosales also won the individual silver.

Laguna loses, leaving only 5 RP boxers in the hunt

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea–Roel Laguna lost steam in the last round yesterday to drop a close decision to his Thai foe in the Asian Games boxing competitions here.

Because the 21-year-old featherweight from Cagayan de Oro held a measly 1-point lead after three rounds, his coaches George Caliwan and Boy Velasco ordered him to go all out in the fourth and last round.

But inexplicably, Laguna did not give his all and fought almost like a scared chicken, allowing Samaksaman Sutthisak to feast on him during almost the entirety of the last round.

"He has no explanation for his actions," said Velasco of Laguna's insubordination. "He was not all-out in the fourth. Coach Caliwan kept telling him at the break that the fight could be his only if he fought all-out."

But Laguna, for one reason or another, rarely threw punches and was generally on the defensive.

"Sa iyo na, ibinigay mo pa (the fight was yours and yet you gave it away," Velasco told Laguna after the fight.

With Laguna's defeat, only five of the eight boxers sent here by boxing president Manny Lopez were left to carry the load for the Philippine bid.

They are Romeo Brin, Harry Tanamor, Violito Payla, Maraon Golez and Anthony Igusquiza.

The 25-year-old Igusquiza climbs the ring today to face Sryian Hamidi Yousef in a lightweight fight, while flyweight Payla battles Pakistan's Nouman Karim.

Victories will assure each of a bronze medal and keep the country's hopes of erasing that gold shut in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

"I am never lacking in encouraging our boxers to give it always their best shot," said Lopez. "Every night before they go to bed, I always remind them that they are not only fighting for themselves but more importantly, for their country."

RP SKED

Oct. 7, 2002
(Korea time 1 hr, ahead of RP time)

Athletics 11:20 a.m.—E Candelario, 400 run (1st round)
2:30 p.m.—J. Lozada, 800m run (1st round)
4:30 p.m.—Eduardo Buenavista, 10,000m run (finals)
Archery 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon—RA Cabral; J Chan, PJ Marino, J Tabanag, women's 50m, 30m (preliminary round)
2 to 4:30 p.m.—M Cordero, C Cubilla, F Matan, A Rojas, 50m, 30m (preliminary round)
Billiards 10 a.m.—F Bustamante/A Lining, 9-ball doubles (semifinal, depending on previous round results), R Grandea, E Reyes, 3-cushion carom singles (quarterfinal, depending on previous round results)
1 p.m.—9-ball pool doubles (3rd, 4th finals), 3-cushion carom singles (quarterfinal)
4 p.m.—3-cushion carom singles (semifinal)
7 p.m.—3-cushion carom singles (3rd, 4th, finals)
Bowling 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Five players team men (second 3-game block)
1:30 to 5 p.m.—Women's five players team (second 3-game block)
Boxing 2 p.m.—A Igusquiza vs H Yousef, Syria, 60 kg (lightweight), first round; V Payla vs N Karim, Pakistan, 51 kg (flyweight), quarterfinals
Cycling 1 to 1:20 p.m.—B Dimacali, keirin (1st round)
1:30 to 1:40 p.m.—Keirin (repechage, depending on previous round results)
2 to 2:50 p.m.—P Curtan Jr., V Espiritu, 30 km points race
5:10 to 5:20 p.m.—Keirin (2nd round)
Shooting 9 a.m.—N "Tac" Padilla, 25 m center fire pistol (1st day)
Soft Tennis 9 a.m.—W de Leon Jr., R Paguyo, P Bantay, J Paguyo, men/women singles, doubles, mixed doubles (finals, depending on previous round results)
Wrestling 10 a.m. to 12 noon—J Angana, 60kg freesytle, M Basas, 74 kg free style; M Valda, 96 kg freesytle (preliminary, first round)
10 a.m. to 12 noon—F Villanueva, 120kg freestyle (classification first round, semifinal)
4 to 7 p.m.—74 kg, 96kg freestyle (preliminary second round)

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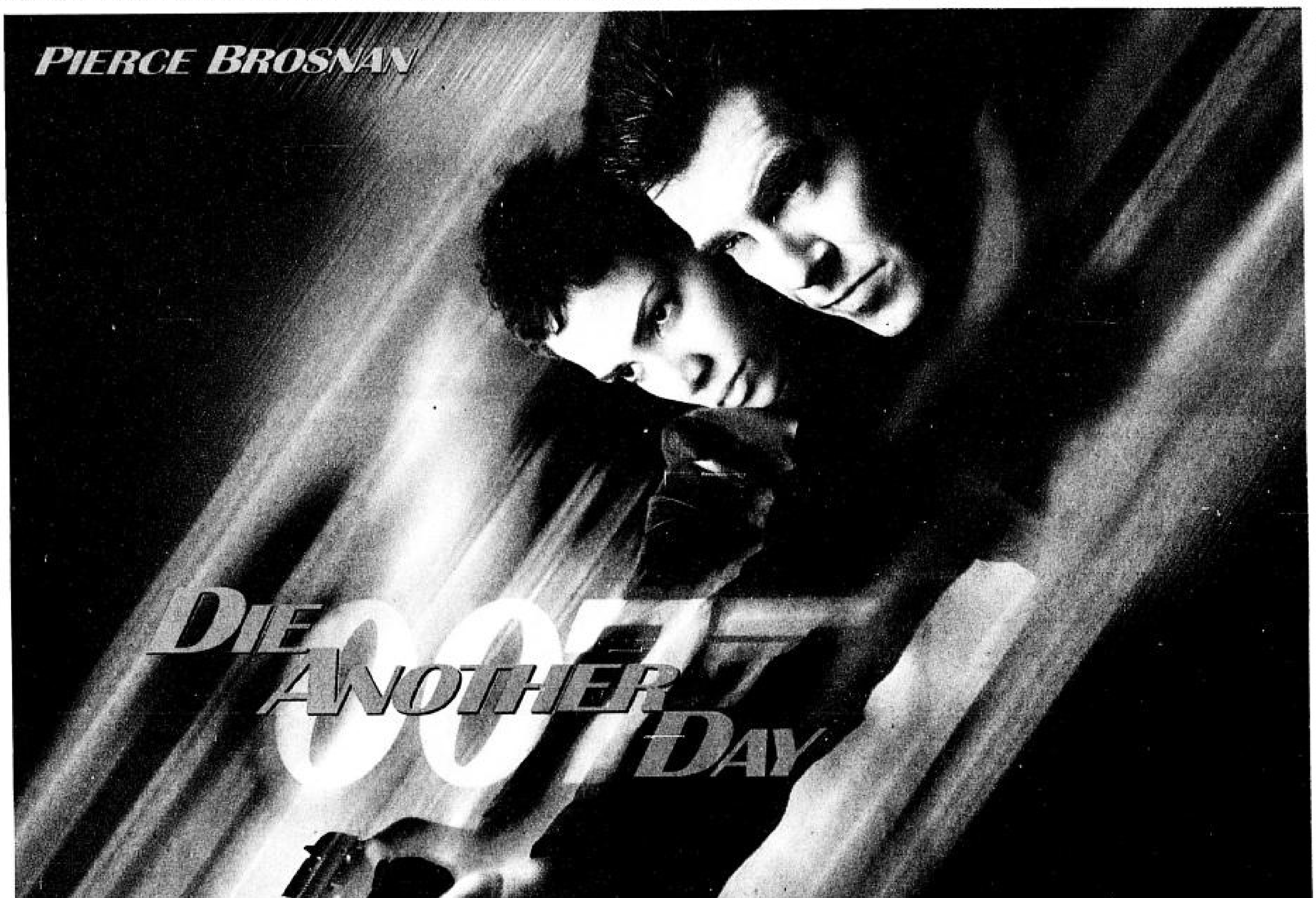

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MITRA CUP 3

High Octane reigns supreme

Esguerra Stable dominates Juvenile Colts race, posts another 1-2 romp

By Edwin Villanueva

HIGH Octane, proving he's the best two-year-old around, blasted the opposition in the Juvenile Colts of the 3rd Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

With ace jockey Pat Dilema at the reins, High Octane shot to the lead with relative ease nearing the backside and coasted home to a five-length victory in the race, the first of three major Mitra Cup events lined up for the day.

Crossing the wire after High Octane was stablemate Reigns Supreme as Hermie Esguerra's winners-rich stable scored another 1-2 finish following the same result posted by his horses in the recent Explosive Stakes.

High Octane, a bay colt sired by Hazm out of Rosegardenqueen, won P300,000, while Reigns Supreme (Hazm-Mythical Key), ridden by Jonathan Hernandez, got P125,000. Savvy Lad finished third then came Arrivederci and Success Story.

"Barring any hitches, we'll hone High Octane in the three-year-old races next year," said Esguerra. "I want High Octane to follow the footsteps of Mighty Strong in the Mitra Cup."

Esguerra was referring to the back-to-back victories registered by Mighty Strong who won the 2001 Juvenile Colts and then the 3-Year-Old Colts only last Saturday.

High Octane, Esguerra added, will also be prepared for the 2003 Triple Crown series where another hopeful, Security Master, caught the attention of early birds yesterday by ruling the opening sweepstakes race.

It could have been a Juvenile Colts-Juvenile Fillies double for Esguerra but just like in the recent Snow White Stakes, Tatler Cover lost in another heartbreaker, this time to Twister, in the inquiry-marred Juvenile Fillies.

Santa Ana stewards immediately called for an inquiry after the race because Twister and Tatler Covered figured in a bumping incident nearing the far turn. But to the chagrin of Tatler Cover's followers, the win was awarded to Twister.

The Classic brought a dramatic conclusion to the successful five-day racing festival organized by the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization.

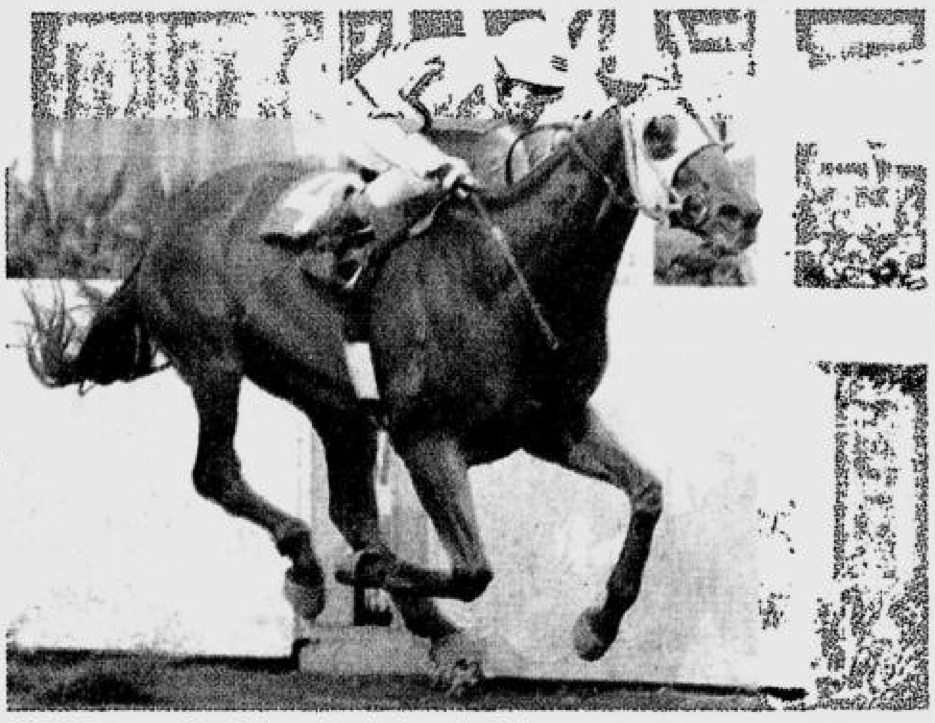
Longshot Lord of All, steered by veteran Esteban de Vera, nosed out another unheralded bet, Hyperbid, to snatch the P300,000 first prize.

Top pick Batangas Entry of Paolo Mendoza wound up only fourth in the 2,050-meter contest, losing steam down the stretch after being pressed by Ilocandia Slew, Silver Story and Kitty Hawk.

Security Master, a two-year-old colt by Khozaam out of Milrose, won the sweepstakes with plenty in hand under the masterful guidance of star rider Fernando Raquel Jr.

Co-owned by Reynaldo "Myther" Buñag and Tony Boy Eleazar, Security Master bankrolled P500,000 (P300,000 from the PCSO and P200,000 added incentive from the Philracom).

PHILTOBO
Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Organization, Inc.



HIGH Octane soloes it home in the Juvenile Colts. VAL HANDUMON

BIG WINNERS: High Octane owner Hermie Esguerra (left) and partners Tony Boy Eleazar and Myther Buñag, Security Master's co-owners. VAL HANDUMON

Cards say goodbye to D'backs

Braves seize 2-1 lead over Giants

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—The St. Louis Cardinals were keen to wrap up their best-of-five National League Division Series in three games on Saturday and they succeeded, rallying to down the defending World Champion Arizona Diamondbacks, 6-3.

The Cards, who shared a team pogo dance when it was done, had no wish to see any more of Diamondbacks aces Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling, both of whom they beat to lead 2-0.

In Saturday's other NL playoff action, Atlanta routed San Francisco, 10-2, to take a 2-1 series lead.

The New York Yankees were ousted by Anaheim earlier in the day, so that means both of last year's World Series teams have been eliminated.

Arizona started fast, scoring twice in the second inning when David Dellucci took St. Louis starter Andy Benes deep with a man aboard.

The Cards knotted it at 2-2 with single runs in the second and third, then went up by two in the fourth on Benes' bunt and a Fernando Vina single, which raised his average for the series to .600.

All four runs were charged to loser Miguel Batista (0-1).

Rod Barajas homered the following frame to bring Arizona to within one and the Diamondbacks would have had another if Albert Pujols had not thrown out Chris Donnels at the plate.

St. Louis got a couple of insurance runs in the eighth when Miguel Cairo, subbing for the injured Scott Rolen, hit a ball to the wall with two men gone to plate veteran Tino Martinez.

Cairo then came home on Kerry Robinson's single.

"We all do our jobs," said the much-travelled Cairo, a native of Venezuela.

The Cards pulled out all the stops, employing an array of pitchers in relief of Benes.

Jeff Fassero, who got the win, Rick White and Steve Kline all had their licks before Jason Isringhausen closed it out.

The Cards now advance to the NL Championship Series; they made it that far in 2000, but lost in five games to the New York Mets.

In San Francisco, Keith Lockhart's three-run homer sparked a five-run sixth inning that gave the Atlanta Braves a comfortable cushion.

The teams go at it again Sunday afternoon in San Francisco, with Game Five scheduled for Monday in Atlanta (if necessary).

Lockhart tagged reliever Manny Aybar, who took over for starter Jason Schmidt (0-1) midway through the sixth frame.

The Braves' other sixth-inning scores came on Vinny Castilla's two-run single.

Atlanta put it away with four more runs in their last at-bats.

Both Joneses—Chipper and Andruw—had run-scoring singles in the ninth and Lockhart followed suit to put the Braves into double digits.

TROY Percival (23) of the Anaheim Angels celebrates as teammates Scott Spiezio (center) and Troy Glaus join him after they beat the New York Yankees in Anaheim, California Saturday night. The Angels won, 9-5, to win the best-of-five series (3-1) and advance to the American League Championship. AFP

Angels oust Yankees

ANAHEIM, California—Little-known Shawn Wooten collected a pair of hits in the fifth inning—the first of them a lead-off homer—to spark an eight-run uprising that carried the Anaheim Angels to a 9-5 win over the New York Yankees in American League playoff action Saturday.

The victory gave the long-suffering Angels their first post-season success in their more than 40-year history, as they took the best-of-five AL Division Series 3-1.

"We beat a great team," said Angels manager Mike Scioscia.

"We got it done. It was nerve wracking." Earlier in the day, the surprising Minnesota Twins stayed alive in their best-of-five series with a convincing 11-2 win over the error-prone Athletics, forcing a fifth game Sunday in Oakland.

The Angels had come close twice before in the AL playoffs, both times failing when they blew the final three series games.

Wooten's inning-opening blast came off loser David Wells, who appeared more agitated when he allowed Benji Gil to reach base on a subsequent single; it got much worse for Wells, who had been nearly perfect in post-season play. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Sorenstam, Kerr World tilt leaders

VALLEJO, California—Annika Sorenstam and Cristie Kerr shared the lead entering the final round of the Samsung World Championship on Saturday. Sorenstam birdied the final hole while Kerr made a bogey as both players finished at 15 under after the third round. Sorenstam, who trailed Kerr by a shot after the second round, shot a 4-under 68. Kerr shot a 69. Sorenstam is seeking her ninth victory of the season, which would eclipse her career best of eight, set last year. Sorenstam already has earned over $2.2 million this season, breaking her own LPGA record of $2.105 million in 2001. Rosie Jones stayed in third after a round of 70 put her at 12 under, three shots behind the co-leaders. Se Ri Pak surged with a 5-under-par 67, marred only by a triple-bogey on No. 17. Pak made eight birdies in her round, finishing at 11 under. She tied for fourth place with first-round leader Michele Redman, who shot a 70. Three-time champion Juli Inkster and Lorie Kane tied for sixth, each shooting a round of 70 to get to 9 under. *AP*

Jobe shoots 65, moves up by 1

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—Brandt Jobe shot a 6-under 65 Saturday to take a one-stroke lead over Billy Mayfair in the Michelob Championship, while David Duval tumbled off the leaderboard. Duval, a two-time Kingsmill winner who struggled to keep his drives out of the thick rough, ballooned to a 74, leaving him seven strokes behind Jobe entering the final round. Jobe, whose nine career victories have come in Canada, Asia and Japan, rebounded from his lone bogey—on the par-4 12th—to birdie five of the last six holes, including the final four to finish at 13-under 200. "I want to win out here to prove that the things I did in Japan—you know, they were good," he said. "I think that's why we're all out here." The bogey at No. 12 actually helped Jobe get back on track. "That was kind of a good wake-up call that I need to get focused," Jobe said. "I didn't expect to finish like that, but I'll take it." Geoff Ogilvy shot a 66 to join 1996 winner Scott Hoch (67), Charles Howell III (68) and Corey Pavin (68) at 10-under 203. Steve Flesch (66) and Hidemichi Tanaka (71) were 8 under. *AP*

Argentina spikers pace quarterfinalists

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Portugal, Argentina, Russia and Italy advanced to the quarterfinals of the Volleyball Championships after winning their second round matches Saturday, while Bulgaria, Japan, Spain and Poland were eliminated. Argentina defeated tournament darkhorse Bulgaria in an electrifying match showcasing the tournament's two highest scorers, Vladimir Nikolav of Bulgaria and Argentina's Marcos Milinkovic. Before a crowd of more than 10,000 in Buenos Aires, Argentina put an end to Bulgaria's surprising success story in group G, 25-20, 22-25, 25-14, 25-19. Elsewhere, in group K, Greece upset an undefeated United States squad in a wild overtime match 20-25, 25-5, 25-20, 15-25, 17-15. After fending off three match points, the Americans were unable to dig themselves out of a two-set deficit before an ear-piercing crowd pulling for the Greek underdogs. *AP*

Hall of Fame jockey mulls future

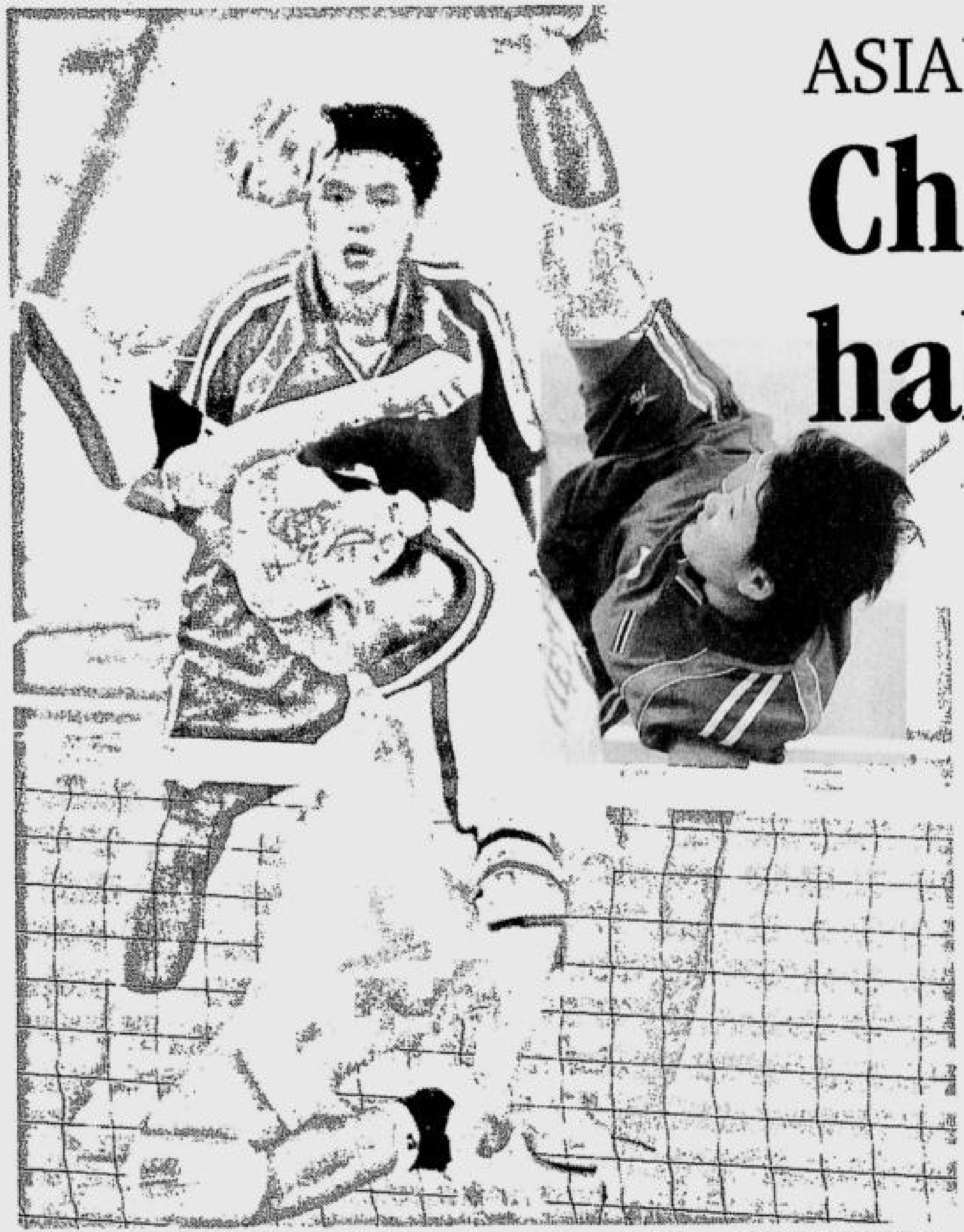
ARCADIA, California—Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Delahoussaye, sidelined since Aug. 30 after a riding spill at Del Mar, is contemplating his future. "I've had a lot of spills," he said, "but I never hit the ground that hard before in my life." The 51-year-old was thrown to the turf when his horse fell. The horse was destroyed. Delahoussaye said he expects to be out about three months if his healing goes well. Meanwhile, Delahoussaye has problems with his neck and he recently discovered he has a broken tooth as a result of the impact from the accident. "If things don't come back into place, then I'll decide whether I'm going to continue riding or not," he said. "But I'm not going to push the issue." *AP*

Oracle, Victory Challenge unbeaten

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—The Oracle Racing team won the first all-American contest at the 31st America's Cup, beating Stars & Stripes Sunday to remain unbeaten in three starts. Oracle, designed by New Zealander Bruce Farr and steered at times by Oracle CEO Larry Ellison, was impressive in fluctuating wind conditions, beating Team Dennis Conner by 1 minute, 58 seconds. The start of match racing on Auckland's Hauraki Gulf was delayed by more than three hours Sunday because of a light and shifting breeze, insufficient to power the mighty 25-meter yachts. The light breezes were a contrast to the strong winds that forced organizers to postpone two race days last week. *AP*

ASIAD ROUNDUP

China claims nearly half of golds at stake



DOWNSKUL Tidawan (right) of Thailand makes a strike against Hoang Thi Thai Xuan (left) of Vietnam during the women's sepak takraw finals in the 14th Asian Games in Busan Sunday. Thailand won the gold by defeating Vietnam 2-0. AFP

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Shooters and a record-breaking weightlifter gave China seven more gold medals Sunday, helping the sports power claim nearly half of the golds decided midway through the Asian Games.

Liu Chunhong broke world records in the snatch, clean and jerk and total in women's 69-kilogram division weightlifting, and Chinese also tied a world mark in shooting.

With 200 gold medals decided, the score was China 92, rest of Asia 108, with eight days left in the 16-day games.

But the Chinese, long dominant in table tennis, suffered their second loss in three events.

Both its mixed doubles pairs lost in the semifinals, and Hong Kong's Cheung Yuk and Tie Ya Na came back from near-defeat to beat South Korea's Ryu Seung-min and Ryu Ji-hae for the gold. China lost the gold medal women's team match to North Korea earlier.

Rain forced postponements in cycling, baseball, sailing and tennis, and cancellation of two softball games.

Japan was awarded the gold medal in softball based on its unbeaten record in preliminary games, where it yielded no runs. China and Taiwan shared the silver. Those two were to have played to decide who would meet Japan in the gold-medal match.

But golf went ahead in the rain. Japan's Ai Miyazato won the women's title, finishing with a 2-under-par 70 for a 2-under 286 total, five shots better than South Korea's Kim Joo-mi, who had a closing 78.

South Korea gained golds from its women's golf team, which edged Japan 577-579; bodybuilder Kang Kyung-won in the 85-kilogram division, and a trio of women bowlers, who scored 3,805 and beat Taiwan by nine pins.

The South Koreans stood second in golds with 32, and Japan had 28.

Kazakstan edged Japan 15-14 for the gold in water polo.

Singapore won three golds Sunday. Abdul Halim bin Haron and Simon Chua were judged best in 65- and 75-kilogram division bodybuilding, and Remy Ong, Lee Yu Wen, Goh Heng Soon outscored 30 other teams in men's trios bowling.

Lebanon won its first gold when bodybuilder Mohammed Anouti was awarded top place in the over-90-kilogram class.

Thailand won both the men's and women's team golds in the acrobatic Southeast Asian sport of sepak takraw, with 2-0 victories over Malaysia in men's and over Vietnam in the women's.

The Thais captured their fifth gold of the games when Praprut Chaithanasakun and Mongkhon Kanfaklang beat India's Geet Siriaram Sethi and Alok Kumar 2-1 in the English billiards doubles final.

Chinese weightlifter Liu lifted 115.5 kilograms in the snatch and 148 in the clean and jerk — a total of 263.5. She set the old clean and jerk mark of 147.5 in June. Russia's Valentina Popova set the former marks of 115 in the snatch and 257.5 in total last November.

"It's wonderful," said 17-year-old Liu. "My parents, who watched the match on TV in China, said they were very happy for me."

Du Li, Shan Hong and Wang Xian tied the 4-year-old world record of 1,754, also set by Chinese, in winning the women's team 50-meter rifle three-position competition. Du Li won the individual event.

China's shooters have won 24 of their 32 events so far.

Xu Xuan won the women's individual 10-meter running target gold medal, and helped China win the team competition. In men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol shooting, China won the team event and Liu Guohui was individual champion.

2002 Busan Asian Games
DREAM 4 GOLD

Ticket sales still below par

BUSAN—With the Asian Games nearly half over, organizers said Sunday that less than 40 percent of the tickets to events had been sold.

Fewer than 1 million of the 2.6 million tickets had been sold as of Saturday evening, said Sohn Yeol, an organizing committee official.

"It's not that bad," said Sohn. "We believe we can meet our goal of 75 percent attendance average."

Of the 38 sports in the games, boxing had one of the worst sales records at 8 percent.

Judo, which ended its four-day run last week, was sold out. South Korea won four of 16 gold medals and North Korea took one.

Steady rains Sunday forced postponement of some outdoor sports on the first weekend since the games opened on Sept. 29.

Forecasters expected intermittent showers throughout the day and clearing overnight.

"The rain would prevent people going on picnics, and may draw them to indoor games," said Sohn.

Gold winners leave hand-print

The "Golden Walkway" will feature more than 500 bronzed molds of athletes' hands, and signatures will line the marble walls of the 50-meter (yard) path.

China's Zhan Shu and Luo Xuejuan, gold medalists in swimming, were first to hold their hands in plaster for 10 minutes until it dried. Then a computerized drill was used to duplicate the athletes' signatures below the handprints. The mold goes to a factory to be plated with bronze.

"It's a good way to preserve the memory for a long time," said Pongsiree Bunluewong of Thailand, who won an equestrian gold medal in the three-day event. "I think it's much better than having your name in the paper or in a book."

Boost for the North

Jang Ung, a North Korean member of the International Olympic Committee, was to travel to Busan on Tuesday to give his athletes a boost at the Asian Games. Jang was to arrive with two marathon runners — Ham Pong Sil and Kim Chang Ok — who will race on the games' final day Oct. 14.

Jang's visit was expected to include talks with South Korean officials over increased sporting links between the two countries. He is also expected to meet with IOC president Jacques Rogge, who will visit Busan Oct. 13 to 15 and attend the Asian Games closing ceremony Oct. 14. Jang is also head of the International Taekwondo Federation.

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Double celebration

CLEAN LIVING
Manolo R. Iñigo

RESTED, healthy and happy, members of the Batang Red Bull team were feted last Tuesday at a well-attended victory party at Edsa-Shangri-La by the Chua family of Photokina Marketing Corp., franchise holder of the back-to-back PBA Commissioner's Cup champion. Everybody had a good time.

Recall that in the recent title series marked by emotion, drama and nail-biting finishes, coach Yeng Guiao's Thunder team nosed out the Talk N Text Phone Pals, mentored by outspoken American mentor Bill Bayno, 4-3, to clinch their second straight championship in only eight conferences since 2000.

"Every player played his role on this team," said Guiao in an interview, adding that his boys are now looking forward to a fruitful campaign in the season-ending All-Filipino Cup which starts on Oct. 20. "I tried to make sure that we came out victorious and, thank God, we succeeded. The boys subordinated personal glory for that of the team."

But perhaps another most important matter worth mentioning here was the recent clarification from the Public Information Office of the Supreme Court which admitted that it erred in releasing a misleading news bulletin regarding the SC decision on the much-maligned VRIS (Voters Registration and Identification System) project of the Commission on Elections.

In a letter to the Photokina legal counsel, Supreme Court Assistant Court Administrator and PIO chief lawyer Ismael Khan Jr. acknowledged that the inaccurate news bulletin might have misled the media. "We regret any misunderstanding that the PIO's news bulletin may have caused," Kahn wrote.

It will be recalled that the Public Information Office of the Supreme Court issued a news bulletin declaring that the high court had granted the petition of the Comelec to withdraw its Notice of Award to Photokina, the winning bidder in the poll body's VRIS project. But a review of the Comelec petition indicated that such request was never included. Photokina protested that it was not possible for the supreme Court to grant a petition that was never made.

Earlier, columnist Jarius Bondoc wrote: "The Tribunal's press office claimed that the justices had ordered Comelec to withdraw a Notice of Award issued to Photokina in September 2000. The implication was that the bidding and awarding were illegal and void from the start–something the justices never said."

While Photokina and its foreign consortium partners, IBM, Unisys and Polaroid of the United States and Sagem of France, which won the bid fair and square, do not wish to contest the Tribunal's decision, they do want their reputation preserved, Bondoc added.

Palos Verdes wins Sta. Lucia Tour

DAVAO—The buildup paid off for an under-sized Rancho Palos Verdes as the host club scored a breakthrough victory right in the opening leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2002 here.

All three frontliners of the Palos Verdes—Willy de Leon (53), Marcelo Tibor (52) and Paul Larrabaster (51)—all scored in the 50s and carried teammate Anton Ferrazzini to a seven-point win over the star-studded Alta Vista squad in Group 1.

Rancho finished with 156 points in the second round and counting their opening 146, they posted a 302 with Alta Vista led by Montito Garcia who had a tournament-best 54 point on the second day and Carl Almario, wounding up at 295.

Alta Vista 6 took Group II and Eagle Ridge 5 clinched Group III of the tourney which has Taylor made, Readycon and Unirock as major backers and Gainers Marketing, Omega, Kodak, Philippine Airlines, Kubota and Cebu Pacific as minor sponsors. Jieda Motors and Yamaha are hole-in-one sponsors. Marco Polos served as the official hotel.

The Alta Vista 6 quartet of Felix Villanueva, Danny Ledesma, Ed Manzano and Jufil Sato aggregated 244 to foil the strong charge of Palos Verdes 3 which scored 238.

With its bid for an overall three-peat in trouble, Eagle Ridge's fifth team Jose Bustos Nepomuceno, Joel Agbanlog, Benito Oblena and Min Kyung Hun took charge. They totaled 229 to easily beat Alta Vista 10 by 15 points.

Individual winners were Tibor in Class A, Shinichi Ogihara of Eagle Ridge in Class B, Sato in Class C and Flory Pareja of Palos Verdes in Class D.

The other two clubs seeing action in the series, Orchard and Royale Tagaytay, went home empty handed.

"After two years of trying we finally got one. This is, hopefully, a good sign for Palos Verdes and we will try to do better in the next leg," said Joe Marfori, general manager of the host club.

The next leg will be played at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Cebu next month with the final leg.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

Baseball
Major League Baseball Division Series (L) 03:00:00, 07-Oct-02 10:30
Bowling Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour Pwba Sport Bowling Champions Challenge Louisville, KY USA (R) 01:00:00 07-Oct-02 11:30
Football Western Union World Football (T) 00:30:00 07-Oct-02 12:00
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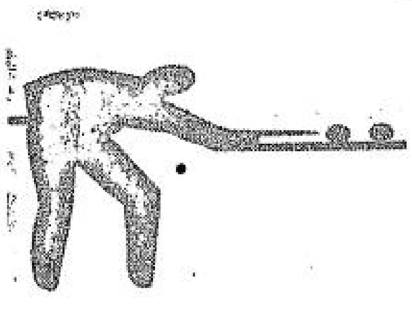
9-BALL DOUBLES

Bustamante-Lining in semis

By Roy Luarca



BUSAN, South Korea—The tandem of Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio Lining provided a glimmer of hope last night even as Efren "Bata" Reyes tasted another disappointment, typifying the Philippine billiards team's roller-coaster ride in the 14th Asian Games here.

Bustamante, not wanting to waste the lone opportunity given him by the coaching staff, combined well with Lining in downing the Kuwaiti pair of Al Mutairi Khaleed and Al-Awadi, 11-5, and assuring the country of at least a silver medal in the 9-ball doubles.

They shoot for the gold against either the South Korean or the Japanese pair, which is still fighting it out in the other semis at presstime today.

With the victory, Bustamante and Lining, who narrowly missed the 9-ball singles bronze Saturday night, softened the impact of Reyes' 50-33 defeat to Korea's Hwang Deuk-hee, 50-33, in the 3-cushion carom singles pre-quarterfinals, which also saw Reynado Grandea nip Chinese-Taipei's Yuan Yung-Kuo, 50-49.

Grandea resumes his medal drive today, hoping to add to the silver taken by Warren Kiamco in the 9-ball singles, Reyes' bronze and the coming silver or gold from Bustamante and Lining.

Though devastated, Reyes offered no excuses.

"Magaling talaga s'ya (Hwang) sa 3-cushion carom," said Reyes, who'll go home with only a bronze (8-ball singles) to show.

Bustamante and Lining whipped Malaysian's Amir Ibrahim and Tan Kha Thiam, 11-6,in the pre-quarterfinal.

LINING (left) and Bustamante during the Pool 9 doubles pre-quarter final held at Dongju College Gym.

JESS YUSON

soaring high©

Congratulations, Ateneo!

We salute all the universities for their participation and all the fans who've made this great event possible. More power to the youth! More power to the UAAP!

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Globe HANDYPHONE

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Metro Council: Build your own parking space /A34

■ 'Wanted alien' singer says she is a Filipino /A35

Metro mayors 'willing to wait'

By Philip C. Tubeza

METRO MANILA mayors will now focus on lobbying Congress to amend the Philippine National Police Law so that they can have "full control" over policemen and the power to hire and fire them, according to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza made this statement yesterday, following President Macapagal-Arroyo's issuance of a memo on Friday giving the 17 Metro Manila mayors operational supervision and control over the local police.

While lauding the President's move, Atienza said that he and his fellow local executives would still lobby Congress.

"We're not giving up in our bid to have full control and supervision, (which means) the power to hire and fire," he said. "Eventually, that is what we want.

"We really appreciate what President Macapagal-Arroyo did," he added. "This may not be full control and supervision but it's definitely a step in the right direction."

Atienza said the memo would give metro mayors "an opportunity to instill better discipline" in policemen in their jurisdiction.

Atienza, who is also the president of the Metro Manila Mayor's League, has been campaigning for the past three years for local executives to have control over po-

MAYORS/ A34

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LIVE STATION	OLDIES BUT GOODIES # 44 WEST AVE.	MUSIC AUTHORITY OCT. 8 ☎ 373. 5677
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST. MAKATI CITY	MP3 FANTASIA	SOUTH BORDER OCT. 15 ☎ 890.4735
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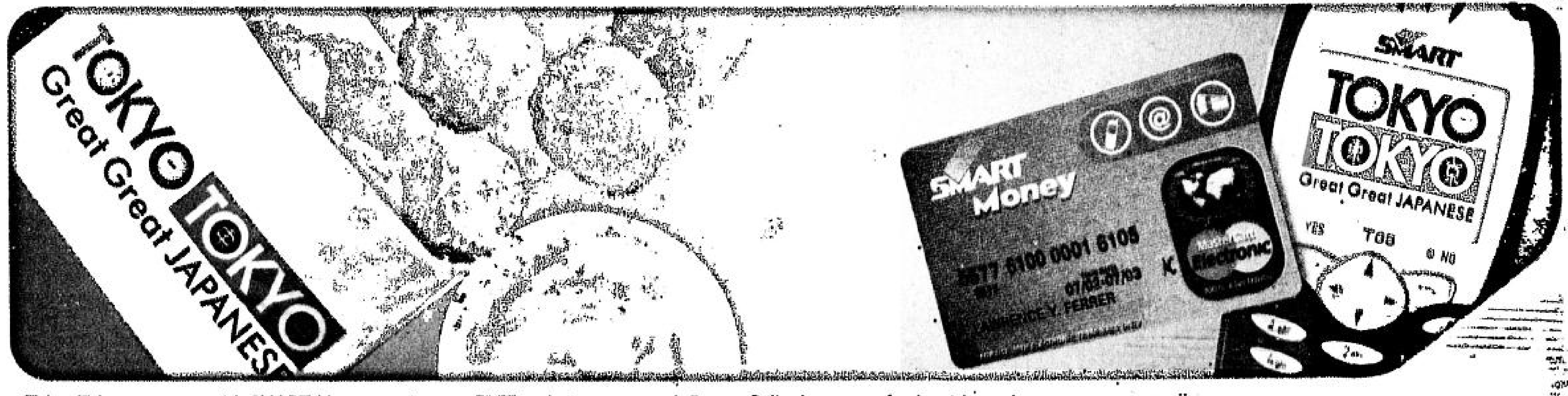
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SMART
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Metro Council: Build your own parking space

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO EASE the traffic flow in the metropolis, the Metro Manila Council has passed a resolution requiring establishment owners to build and maintain their own parking spaces in front of their properties.

The resolution urges local government units to enact an ordinance that will require building owners to pave and maintain their own front easements for parking purposes, thereby taking the burden off the government.

Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the resolution would make the traffic flow smoother because additional parking spaces would minimize the number of vehicles parked on the streets.

But he added that even if easements are used for parking, the parking spaces should not take up the space designated for sidewalks in order not to hamper the flow of pedestrians.

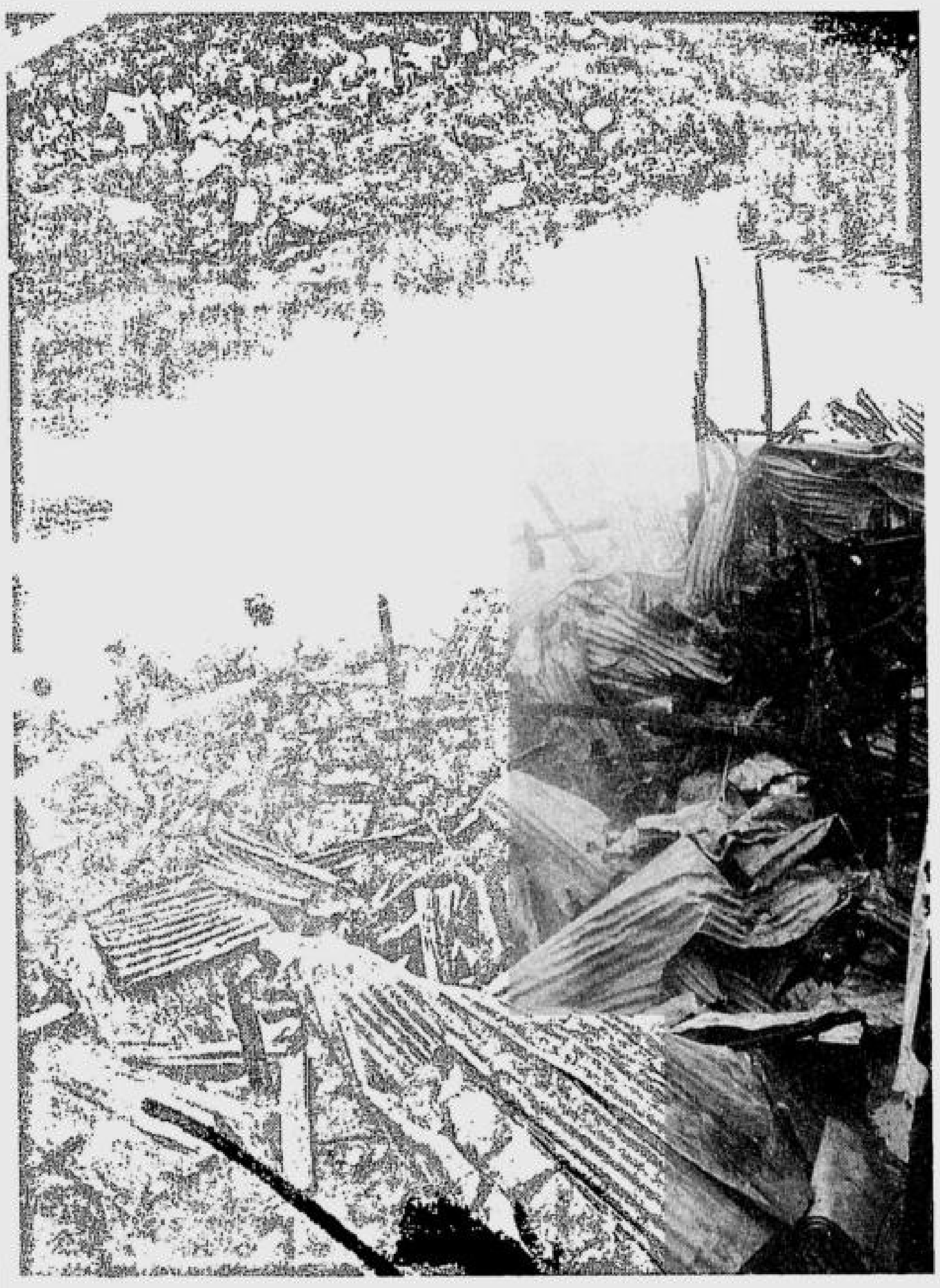
"Either you have spacious easements and a sidewalk (on main thoroughfares), or you follow specific parking guidelines (on secondary and tertiary roads)," he said. "According to the (MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando), traffic flow should be continuous."

Proper parking would also ensure that narrower roads would not be blocked by double-parked vehicles, he added.

Vergel de Dios said that city and municipal engineers are attending a seminar on proper and efficient parking schemes for primary, secondary and tertiary roads.

Fernando, who also heads the MMC, earlier said that vehicles parked on the streets tend to congest the traffic flow. He had also said that citizens should be taught parking discipline so that roads would not be clogged.

Fernando had also said that after ridding the sidewalks of all obstructions, he would concentrate on parking discipline and would even deploy special enforcers whose duty would be to ensure that all vehicles are parked properly.



FIRE ON THE WATER
Residents who lost their homes in a Sunday noon fire in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City watch helplessly from across the water, with the meager belongings they were able to salvage from the blaze scattered around them. The fire hit squatter shanties at the corner of Quezon and Araneta avenues.

JOAN BONDOC

'BF washes his hands like Pilate'

By Agnes E. Donato

A PASTOR of the United Methodis Church yesterday compared Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando to Pontius Pilate.

Israel Alvaran was speaking before protesting workers of Fernando's BF Metal when he made the statement.

"Like Pilate, Fernando washes his hands of his responsibility in the dismissal of his employees," Alvaran said. "He says he is merely complying with the law (when he ordered the dismissal of the workers), as the arbiter had ruled that the union's picket-protest was an illegal strike."

The protesting workers have been on a hunger strike since Tuesday. They have been retrenched after conducting a picket-protest against Fernando.

The pastor celebrated Mass at the workers' picket line in front of the MMDA building in Guadalupe, Makati.

"Fernando must withdraw the illegal strike case against the workers and reinstate them," Alvaran said. "The anomalous judgment by the arbiter cannot be rectified by another error."

The workers have already filed an appeal before the National Labor Relations Commission, said Moises Rodriguez, president of BF Metal Labor Union.

"Truth be told, it was Fernando who used the labor court in order to bust the union," he said. "The concerted action was not a strike because there was no work stoppage in the first place. The mass action was conducted before the regular hours of work. This can be proven by our time cards.

"But we could not simply rely on the force of reason to convince the labor court. Hence, we had no choice other than collective action to induce reason from Bayani Fernando."

The militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) also condemned Fernando for allegedly using "capitalist terror against the workers."

"Long before BF became a Hitler to street vendors, he was a despotic capitalist who terrorized workers in his factory," said BMP president Victor Briz.

RP in the Asiad: Return of the unhappy ending

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—They promised us the cake. No more mud pies.

There would be gold medals. Not by the bucket the way powerhouse China has scooped up the goodies in practically all playing fields here. But enough to warm our hearts, make the Pinoy feel truly proud.

Our sports officials said the RP delegation would return from this bustling capital with a clean bill of health. This expedition, they bragged, will not end up as another diagnosis.

Pardon me— it might indeed be too early for a final assessment —but where does the Philippine contingent stand after the first week of the 14th Asian Games?

Not too far from the bottom of the Asiad medal board, behind Singapore and Vietnam.

***

Nothing truly wrong if fencer Richard Gomez registered our first loss early in the Games. He was there mainly to add looks and glamour to the delegation. Goma, the way he dragged his feet and faltered on the competition stage, appeared more fit for the men's golf team.

Nothing wrong with our swimmers getting buried last in the evening pool finals. Everybody knew from the start that other top qualifiers would have had to drown for our swimmers here to land the tank medals.

This poor bunch, after all, was not expected to lead our delegation to the Promised Land.

But, hey, when Bata Reyes, again cursing the bad breaks, failed to reach the gold medal round in the eight-ball singles, we knew it would be crying time again any moment now.

***

Nothing to worry, Bata Reyes assured, he said his teammates would be there to carry the fight.

In a way, Bata wanted us to believe that he was not the RP billiards team.

But could he blame us if we groaned and cursed fate after he slipped on a stop-ball try close to the side-pocket, then uncharacteristically missed his next and deciding shot?

Never said this to Bata. He indeed appeared hurt and disturbed by his unexpected failure. He badly wanted this Asiad gold medal for his countrymen. I had, however, feared that the billiards team could go where Bata had ended—picking up the crumbs.

With the dismal fall of RP cue artists in the nine-ball singles after Bata, the top gold medal hope, had to settle for the bronze, fans and media men inevitably started to ask where Django Bustamante was.

Out to scrounge for the last remaining pool medal in the nine-ball doubles, of course.

Why was Django not fielded in the nine-ball singles, in place of Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco who fumbled, fidgeted and finally failed once they had reached the medal round?

***

Pool team officials claimed Django had registered late and that they could no longer make adjustments in the line-up.

But Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, who was there to witness the second straight fall of Pinoy pool players, said that if Django had been able to meet the deadline for the Asiad list-up, the pool star could have been squeezed into the nine-ball singles calendar where he stood the strongest chance of landing the gold.

Django, who was scheduled to tandem with Lining in the nine-ball doubles, could just succeed in saving the pool team—and the RP delegation—from ultimate shame.

What has, however, become clear here is that, with the failure of the RP pool team to deliver its medal quota, the Philippine contingent is now hard-pressed to look for other sources of the gold medals so generously promised by top delegation officials.

***

The pool team had sent countless fans crying. No kidding.

Take the case of sports scribe Tito Talao of the Bulletin who swore our billiards players were our strongest hopes here.

Tito was so disgusted that, after Bata's dismal defeat, he had sworn never to take the tiring bus ride and return to the pool competition halls in Dongju.

"We had a real high after we beat Japan in basketball," Tito explained. "But healthy as I'm, I might suffer a heart attack if I continued covering our billiards team."

For the record, the bowlers, courtesy of the men's double team, had landed our first and only gold medal here. But our contingent appeared headed for an eternal wait for the second gold as of press time yesterday.

***

Remember, there was a promise of as many as seven, even 10, gold medals from national team officials.

But the question being asked here as this quadrennial meet heads for its final week was where to dig those other golds.

OK, the basketball team has so far succeeded in keeping a clean slate, thus making the Philippine stint appear delightful for the moment.

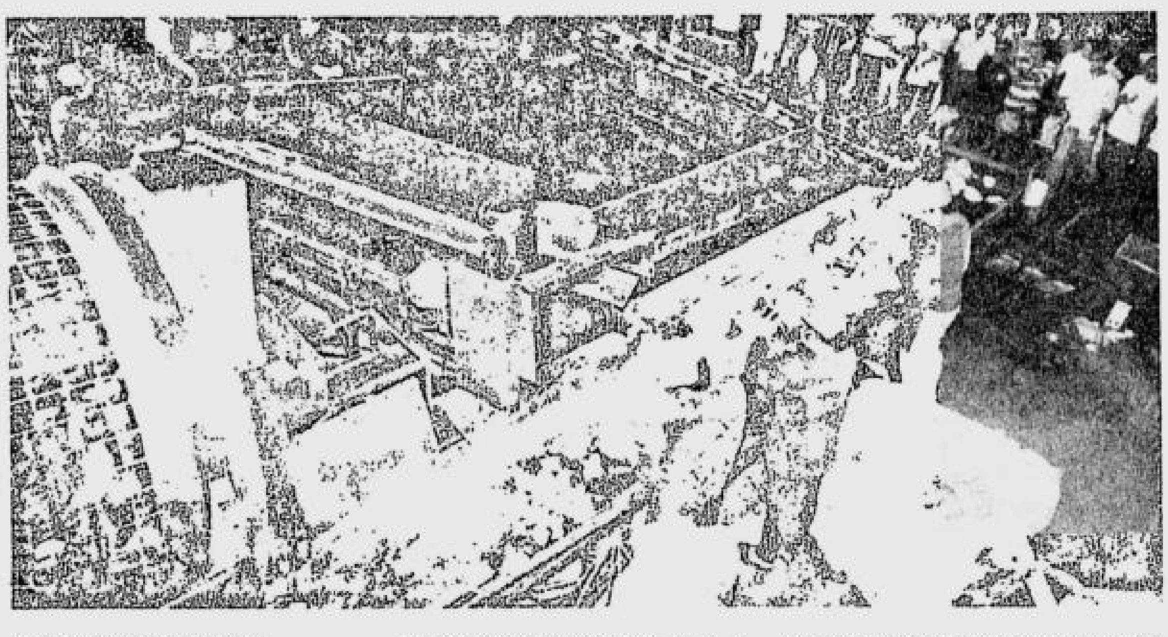
However, the overall picture could change drastically for the entire Philippine delegation after our cagers had taken on the mighty Chinese dribblers. That match is slated tomorrow.

After the RP-China match, you can bet that the old question on what went wrong would be asked again and again.

Nothing really wrong, folks. After the big promises and a happy, hopeful start here, we are back to where we started. Philippine sports remain stuck in that era of the unhappy ending. The tired diagnosis follows.

***

(HEIRS: In case you're wondering, I meant heirs apparent (not apparents) in describing Shin Dong Pa's successors in my previous column, where I also reported that Sev Sarmenta gallantly held fort while working the RP team basketball games. Thanks.)



MODEL FACILITY
Workers separate biodegradable waste from non-biodegradable at the Bacoor Materials Recovery Facility and Composting Plant, which Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez formally opened last Saturday in Barangay Malipay in Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite. At right, Alvarez (with garland) discusses what could be the key to the country's garbage problem with (from left) Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo and Sen. Robert Jaworski.

FX operators seek lifting of suspension

AN ORGANIZATION of FX taxi operators appealed to the Land Transportation Office to lift the suspension of the issuance of operating franchises to their type of public vehicles.

The operators said the five-year-old stoppage has only worsened "corruption in the streets."

"We are ready to comply with government requirements," said Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Hi-Lander/Van Operators and Drivers Associations. "But why won't they allow more of us to be legalized?"

In a media forum on Saturday, Magno said the 1998 LTO memorandum suspending the franchise issuance had forced many of his peers to risk being "colorums" and fall prey to extorting traffic officers and even barangay officials.

"They have no choice but to 'settle' (their violations) with every traffic enforcer that flags them down," he said.

He said these colorum drivers would rather take the chance of plying their routes without a franchise and serve as "milking cows" of the officers who flag them down "rather than join the ranks of the unemployed."

He said other drivers and operators ended up being victimized by some "unscrupulous personnel" from the LTO and the Land Transportation and Regulatory Board who offered registration papers, stickers and license plates that all turned out to be fake.

The confederation claims to have 40,000 members mainly in Metro Manila and Regions III and IV. *Volt Contreras*

Mayors ...

From page A33

licemen in their towns and cities.

"I'm confident about (Western Police District Director Chief Supt.) Pete Bulaong and the way he has been running the (district)," the mayor said. "But now, we can focus more on the police."

He said that the memo was also "timely" since Manila also recently implemented changes in its People's Law Enforcement Board (Pleb).

Atienza said that well-known anti-crime activist Teresita Ang-See has agreed to lead Manila's Pleb.

The mayor and other city hall officials are expected to hold a joint command conference with Bulaong and other WPD officials later this week.

Barangay officials are also expected to join the command conference. The meeting is expected to discuss the priorities of the Manila police.

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Metro Council: Build your own parking space

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO EASE the traffic flow in the metropolis, the Metro Manila Council has passed a resolution requiring establishment owners to build and maintain their own parking spaces in front of their properties.

The resolution urges local government units to enact an ordinance that will require building owners to pave and maintain their own front easements for parking purposes, thereby taking the burden off the government.

Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the resolution would make the traffic flow smoothei because additional parking spaces would minimize the number of vehicles parked on the streets.

But he added that even if easements are used for parking, the parking spaces should not take up the space designated for sidewalks in order not to hamper the flow of pedestrians.

"Either you have spacious easements and a sidewalk (on main thoroughfares), or you follow specific parking guidelines (on secondary and tertiary roads)," he said. "According to the (MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando), traffic flow should be continuous."

Proper parking would also ensure that narrowei roads would not be blocked by double-parked vehicles, he added.

Vergel de Dios said that city and municipal engineers are attending a seminar on proper and efficient parking schemes for primary, secondary and tertiary roads.

Fernando, who also heads the MMC, earlier said that vehicles parked on the streets tend to congest the traffic flow. He had also said that citizens should be taught parking discipline so that roads would not be clogged.

Fernando had also said that after ridding the sidewalks of all obstructions, he would concentrate on parking discipline and would even deploy special enforcers whose duty would be to ensure that all vehicles are parked properly.

'BF washes his hands like Pilate'

By Agnes E. Donato

A PASTOR of the United Methodis Church yesterday compared Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando to Pontius Pilate.

Israel Alvaran was speaking before protesting workers of Fernando's BF Metal when he made the statement.

"Like Pilate, Fernando washes his hands of his responsibility in the dismissal of his employees," Alvaran said. "He says he is merely complying with the law (when he ordered the dismissal of the workers), as the arbiter had ruled that the union's picket-protest was an illegal strike."

The protesting workers have been on a hunger strike since Tuesday. They have been retrenched after conducting a picket-protest against Fernando.

The pastor celebrated Mass at the workers' picket line in front of the MMDA building in Guadalupe, Makati.

"Fernando must withdraw the illegal strike case against the workers and reinstate them," Alvaran said. "The anomalous judgment by the arbiter cannot be rectified by another error."

The workers have already filed an appeal before the National Labor Relations Commission, said Moises Rodriguez, president of BF Metal Labor Union.

"Truth be told, it was Fernando who used the labor court in order to bust the union," he said. "The concerted action was not a strike because there was no work stoppage in the first place. The mass action was conducted before the regular hours of work. This can be proven by our time cards.

"But we could not simply rely on the force of reason to convince the labor court. Hence, we had no choice other than collective action to induce reason from Bayani Fernando."

The militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) also condemned Fernando for allegedly using "capitalist terror against the workers."

"Long before BF became a Hitler to street vendors, he was a despotic capitalist who terrorized workers in his factory," said BMP president Victor Briz.

FIRE ON THE WATER
Residents who lost their homes in a Sunday noon fire in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City watch helplessly from across the water, with the meager belongings they were able to salvage from the blaze scattered around them. The fire hit squatter shanties at the corner of Quezon and Araneta avenues.

JOAN BONDOC

RP in the Asiad: Return of the unhappy ending

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—They promised us the cake. No more mud pies.

There would be gold medals. Not by the bucket the way powerhouse China has scooped up the goodies in practically all playing fields here. But enough to warm our hearts, make the Pinoy feel truly proud.

Our sports officials said the RP delegation would return from this bustling capital with a clean bill of health. This expedition, they bragged, will not end up as another diagnosis.

Pardon me— it might indeed be too early for a final assessment —but where does the Philippine contingent stand after the first week of the 14th Asian Games?

Not too far from the bottom of the Asiad medal board, behind Singapore and Vietnam.

***

Nothing truly wrong if fencer Richard Gomez registered our first loss early in the Games. He was there mainly to add looks and glamour to the delegation. Goma, the way he dragged his feet and faltered on the competition stage, appeared more fit for the men's golf team.

Nothing wrong with our swimmers getting buried last in the evening pool finals. Everybody knew from the start that other top qualifiers would have had to drown for our swimmers here to land the tank medals.

This poor bunch, after all, was not expected to lead our delegation to the Promised Land.

But, hey, when Bata Reyes, again cursing the bad breaks, failed to reach the gold medal round in the eight-ball singles, we knew it would be crying time again any moment now.

***

Nothing to worry, Bata Reyes assured, he said his teammates would be there to carry the fight.

In a way, Bata wanted us to believe that he was not the RP billiards team.

But could he blame us if we groaned and cursed fate after he slipped on a stop-ball try close to the side-pocket, then uncharacteristically missed his next and deciding shot?

Never said this to Bata. He indeed appeared hurt and disturbed by his unexpected failure. He badly wanted this Asiad gold medal for his countrymen. I had, however, feared that the billiards team could go where Bata had ended—picking up the crumbs.

With the dismal fall of RP cue artists in the nine-ball singles after Bata, the top gold medal hope, had to settle for the bronze, fans and media men inevitably started to ask where Django Bustamante was.

Out to scrounge for the last remaining pool medal in the nine-ball doubles, of course.

Why was Django not fielded in the nine-ball singles, in place of Antonio Lining and Warren Kiamco who fumbled, fidgeted and finally failed once they had reached the medal round?

***

Pool team officials claimed Django had registered late and that they could no longer make adjustments in the line-up.

But Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, who was there to witness the second straight fall of Pinoy pool players, said that if Django had been able to meet the deadline for the Asiad list-up, the pool star could have been squeezed into the nine-ball singles calendar where he stood the strongest chance of landing the gold.

Django, who was scheduled to tandem with Lining in the nine-ball doubles, could just succeed in saving the pool team—and the RP delegation—from ultimate shame.

What has, however, become clear here is that, with the failure of the RP pool team to deliver its medal quota, the Philippine contingent is now hard-pressed to look for other sources of the gold medals so generously promised by top delegation officials.

***

The pool team had sent countless fans crying. No kidding.

Take the case of sports scribe Tito Talao of the Bulletin who swore our billiards players were our strongest hopes here.

Tito was so disgusted that, after Bata's dismal defeat, he had sworn never to take the tiring bus ride and return to the pool competition halls in Dongju.

"We had a real high after we beat Japan in basketball," Tito explained. "But healthy as I'm, I might suffer a heart attack if I continued covering our billiards team."

For the record, the bowlers, courtesy of the men's double team, had landed our first and only gold medal here. But our contingent appeared headed for an eternal wait for the second gold as of press time yesterday.

***

Remember, there was a promise of as many as seven, even 10, gold medals from national team officials.

But the question being asked here as this quadrennial meet heads for its final week was where to dig those other golds.

OK, the basketball team has so far succeeded in keeping a clean slate, thus making the Philippine stint appear delightful for the moment.

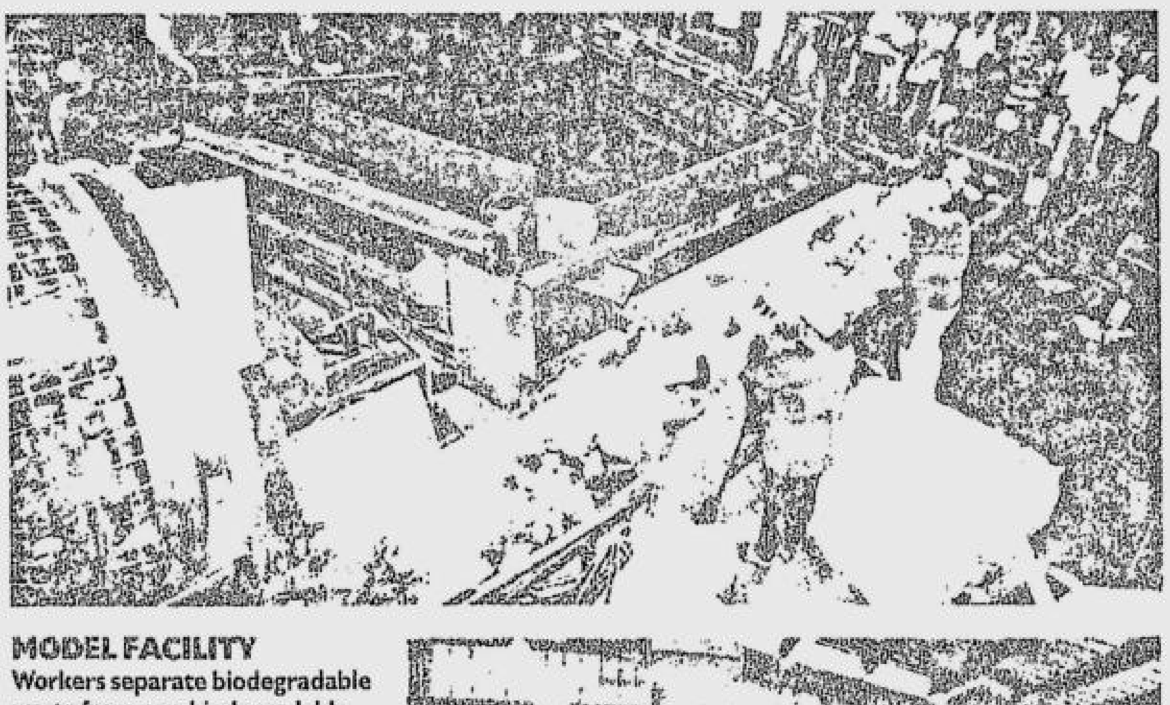
However, the overall picture could change drastically for the entire Philippine delegation after our cagers had taken on the mighty Chinese dribblers. That match is slated tomorrow.

After the RP-China match, you can bet that the old question on what went wrong would be asked again and again.

Nothing really wrong, folks. After the big promises and a happy, hopeful start here, we are back to where we started. Philippine sports remain stuck in that era of the unhappy ending. The tired diagnosis follows.

***

(HEIRS: In case you're wondering, I meant heirs apparent (not apparents) in describing Shin Dong Pa's successors in my previous column, where I also reported that Sev Sarmenta gallantly held fort while working the RP team basketball games. Thanks.)



MODEL FACILITY
Workers separate biodegradable waste from non-biodegradable at the Bacoor Materials Recovery Facility and Composting Plant, which Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez formally opened last Saturday in Barangay Malipay in Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite. At right, Alvarez (with garland) discusses what could be the key to the country's garbage problem with (from left) Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo and Sen. Robert Jaworski.

FX operators seek lifting of suspension

AN ORGANIZATION of FX taxi operators appealed to the Land Transportation Office to lift the suspension of the issuance of operating franchises to their type of public vehicles.

The operators said the five-year-old stoppage has only worsened "corruption in the streets."

"We are ready to comply with government requirements," said Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Hi-Lander/Van Operators and Drivers Associations. "But why won't they allow more of us to be legalized?"

In a media forum on Saturday, Magno said the 1998 LTO memorandum suspending the franchise issuance had forced many of his peers to risk being "colorums" and fall prey to extorting traffic officers and even barangay officials.

"They have no choice but to 'settle' (their violations) with every traffic enforcer that flags them down," he said.

He said these colorum drivers would rather take the chance of plying their routes without a franchise and serve as "milking cows" of the officers who flag them down "rather than join the ranks of the unemployed."

He said other drivers and operators ended up being victimized by some "unscrupulous personnel" from the LTO and the Land Transportation and Regulatory Board who offered registration papers, stickers and license plates that all turned out to be fake.

The confederation claims to have 40,000 members mainly in Metro Manila and Regions III and IV.

Volt Contreras

Mayors ...

From page A33

licemen in their towns and cities.

"I'm confident about (Western Police District Director Chief Supt.) Pete Bulaong and the way he has been running the (district)," the mayor said. "But now, we can focus more on the police."

He said that the memo was also "timely" since Manila also recently implemented changes in its People's Law Enforcement Board (Pleb).

Atienza said that well-known anti-crime activist Teresita Ang-See has agreed to lead Manila's Pleb.

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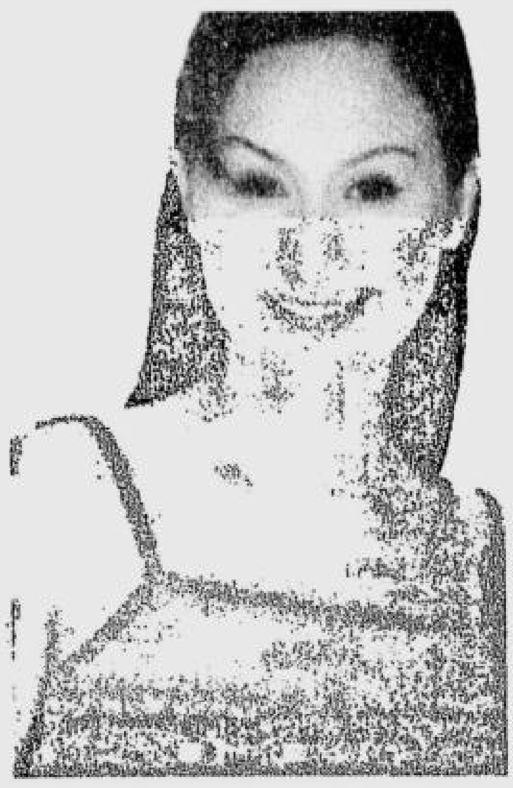
'Wanted alien' singer says she is a Filipino



LADINE Roxas. Producers now afraid to hire her.

By Nini Valera

SINGER Ladine Roxas says she is a Filipino and not an undocumented foreigner working in the country without a permit.

Roxas (real name, Geraldine Olazo Roxas) was, according to a Bureau of Immigration mission order, among the "foreign artists" who entered the country as tourists and then stayed here to work as entertainers without a work visa.

But Roxas, 23, on Saturday showed the INQUIRER her birth certificate that says she was born on Nov. 30 in Limay, Bataan to Ricardo Roxas Jr. and Jenny Olazo Roxas, both Filipinos.

Roxas, the 2001 Voice of Asia grand prize winner, also has a Filipino passport, which has a UK working visa stamp that enabled her to perform in London to promote her first single from Candid Label.

The INQUIRER obtained copies of the documents.

"I just arrived on Tuesday night after four months in continental Europe to promote my first single there," she said in Taglish. "I was so surprised when my girl at home and my cook told me that I would be arrested. They said they heard the news on television. People also started calling me up, asking if I was harassed in immigration at the airport."

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a phone interview that Roxas "could have just sent somebody to show us her papers."

She said the mission order was based on intelligence reports that said several foreign artists have been working here without the necessary permits.

"I will check on those reports," Domingo said. "If we made a mistake, I will do something about it first thing tomorrow (Monday)."

Domingo also said that the bureau was not actively pursuing the alleged foreign artists and that they were not on any immigration watch list.

"We just want them to regularize their status here because the local performers are affected," she said.

Roxas has just signed with Candid Records, a UK label, a three-year, three-album recording contract. She was in the UK, Spain and France for four months to promote her first single "Where There is Love" on that label. She arrived in Manila last Tuesday and was immediately shaken by the news of her impending arrest.

"My parents were so worried that I had to go there to Limay on Wednesday to assure her that I was okay," she said. "They were scared when they first heard the news that I would be arrested. They didn't know what crime exactly I was supposed to have committed."

When she told them that she was suspected of being a foreigner working here without a work permit, Roxas said her parents only laughed.

Roxas is set to meet with Commissioner Domingo tomorrow to clear up the mess. She said she made the appointment with immigration officials as soon as she arrived, but was told that Domingo could only meet with her tomorrow.

The former host of a GMA 7 variety show said that because of the news reports, she had lost four corporate shows because the producers backed out of the deals, not wanting to be involved in any controversy.

Her local promo of her single had also been put on hold after some of her bookings were cancelled, Roxas said.

"I just want them (immigration officials) to retract because producers are now scared to get me," she said.

Parañaque seeks talk with MIAA

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PARAÑAQUE government is inviting officials of the beleaguered Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) to a dialogue to discuss the premier airport's multimillion-peso tax obligation to the city.

Luis Mendoza, Parañaque's chief legal officer, said the city government is demanding about P724 million in unpaid realty taxes since 1997.

But Mendoza said that Mayor Joey Marquez is willing to sit down with MIAA officials and discuss how they could pay their obligation.

Marquez is poised to place the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) on the auction block following a Court of Appeals resolution rejecting MIAA's petition to block the sale.

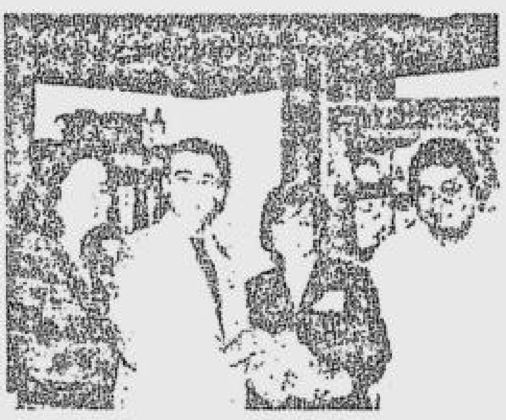
MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda had said he would go to the Supreme Court to preserve the "territorial integrity" of NAIA.

The auction was initially set last Feb. 8 but the MIAA managed to secure a temporary restraining order from the appellate court.

Airport officials argued that Naia was not bound to pay realty taxes to Parañaque since it is a government owned and controlled corporation.

But the Court of Appeals ruled that the airport was not exempt from its tax obligations as prescribed by the Local Government Code.

The court added that MIAA had acknowledged its obligations by paying realty taxes representing liabilities from 1992 to 1997.



EASY TO SERVE
Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez (second from left) graces the launch of Seachamp International's line of frozen soups. Seachamp, maker of the Polar line of ready-to-cook seafood, says its new line is all-natural, contains no artificial extenders or chemical additives and has low levels of fat and cholesterol. With Ordoñez are (from left) Women's Business Council Vice Chair Isabelita Palanca, Seachamp vice president for operations and marketing Anna Marie Sy, and Seachamp president Reynaldo Sy.

Health show

A HOLISTIC health exhibit dubbed "Body-Mind Health Show" will be held at the Orosa Atrium of Robinson's Place Manila, Oct. 27-29, 2002.

The exhibit is spearheaded by Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, DSc., in line with the Department of Tourism's "Wow Philippines We'll Take Care Of Your Health" project, and in cooperation with the Philippine Convention and Visitors' Corp. and Robinson's Place Manila.

It will showcase various forms of natural healing techniques, including reflexology and aromatherapy, herbal plants and their medicinal qualities, plus a whole array of different products and holistic health services.

Activities include the launching and signing of Cory Quirino's book, "Forever Young'; free lectures on reflexology, beauty, and herbal teas; free blood sugar and blood pressure monitoring; free reflexology treatment, and more.

Distinguished guests will grace the ribbon-cutting on Oct. 28 at 5 p.m., which will be followed by cocktails.

Psychic healer Nardy Bautista will also conduct a special psychic healing session on the same day, from 2-5 p.m.

For more information, contact the exhibit secretariat at 371-7015 to 16.

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4 THE TUXEDO

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 ENOUGH
3 THE TUXEDO 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 THE TUXEDO
K-19:THE WIDOWMAKER

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
2 STORYTELLING EXCLUSIVE 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
Cinema MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT)
OCT. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
2 THE TUXEDO 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20
3 SPY KIDS 2 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30
4 K-19: THE WIDOW-MAKER 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30
5 ENOUGH 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

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3 ENOUGH
4 THE TUXEDO
5 SPY KIDS 2

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2 (DTS) K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER
3 TUKAAN

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(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 K-19 RESERVE
2 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
3 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
4 TUXEDO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 (DTS) SPY KIDS-2
4 TUKAAN
5 VOODOO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS-2

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS-2

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(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
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2 KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
3 (DTS) REVELATION
4 (DOLBY) REIGN OF FIRE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
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2 HIGH RISK
3 K-19 THE WIDOWMAKER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 VOODOO
3 SPY KIDS-2
4 VAN WILDER

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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4 K-19
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI
7 THE TUXEDO
8 REVELATION

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 PROSTI
2 K-19
3 THE TUXEDO
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 THE TUXEDO
6 REVELATION
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 REIGN OF FIRE
9 ENOUGH
10 RED BLOODED...

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 REVELATION
3 REIGN OF FIRE
4 K-19
5 THE TUXEDO
6 PROSTI
7 THE TUXEDO
8 SPY KIDS 2
9 VOODOO
10 ENOUGH
11 RED BLOODED AMERICAN..
12 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 ENOUGH
3 IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE
4 THE TUXEDO
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO
7 VAN WILDER
8 K-19
9 THE TUXEDO
10 ROAD TO PERDITION
11 SPY KIDS 2
12 PROSTI

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE TUXEDO
2 K-19
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 THE TUXEDO
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 ROAD TO PERDITION
7 JOLOGS
8 ENOUGH
9 PROSTI
10 THE TUXEDO
11 REVELATION
12 REIGN OF FIRE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 REVELATION
2 THE TUXEDO
3 PROSTI
4 K-19
5 BIRTHDAY GIRL
6 ENOUGH
7 SPY KIDS 2
8 THE TUXEDO

SM SOUTHMALL
8000888
1 ENOUGH
2 THE TUXEDO
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ROAD TO PERDITION
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7 PROSTI
8 THE TUXEDO
9 K-19
10 RED BLOODED...

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 THE TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 THE ROOKIE
5 REVELATION
6 TUKAAN
7 K-19
8 THE TUXEDO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 KAPAG ANG PALAY...
2 CLOSED
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 REIGN OF FIRE
6 THE TUXEDO
7 CLOSED
8 HIGH RISK

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 THE TUXEDO
2 K-19
3 ENOUGH
4 REVELATION
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 PROSTI
2 SPY KIDS 2
3 THE TUXEDO
4 ENOUGH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE TUXEDO
2 PROSTI
3 SPY KIDS 2
4 K-19

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 THE TUXEDO
2 THE ROOKIE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 REIGN OF FIRE
5 TUKAAN
6 SPY KIDS 2

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1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
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VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
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1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
11:00 FS/11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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3 ENOUGH
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 PROSTI
6 BIRTHDAY GIRL
7 SIMONE
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3 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
4 BIRHTDAY GIRL
5 PROSTI
6 ENOUGH
7 TUXEDO

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Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8780
1 BIRTHDAY GIRL
2 TUXEDO
3 TUXEDO
4 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 PROSTI
7 ENOUGH
8 VAN WILDER

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1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 VAN WILDER

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1 TUXEDO
2 K-19 THE WIDOW MAKER
3 PROSTI
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 ENOUGH
6 SPY KIDS 2

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 DIVINE SECRETS OF YAYA SISTERHOOD
4 SPY KIDS 2
5 REVELATION
6 LEFT BEHIND

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 TUXEDO
2 REIGH OF FIRE
3 RAOD TO PERDITION
4 LEFT BEHIND
5 SPY KIDS 2
6 KAPAG PALAY NAGING BIGAS...

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Send to : 2333 Globe / 225 Smart

WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Pia Guanio on gossip: My BF knows me better

From page A38

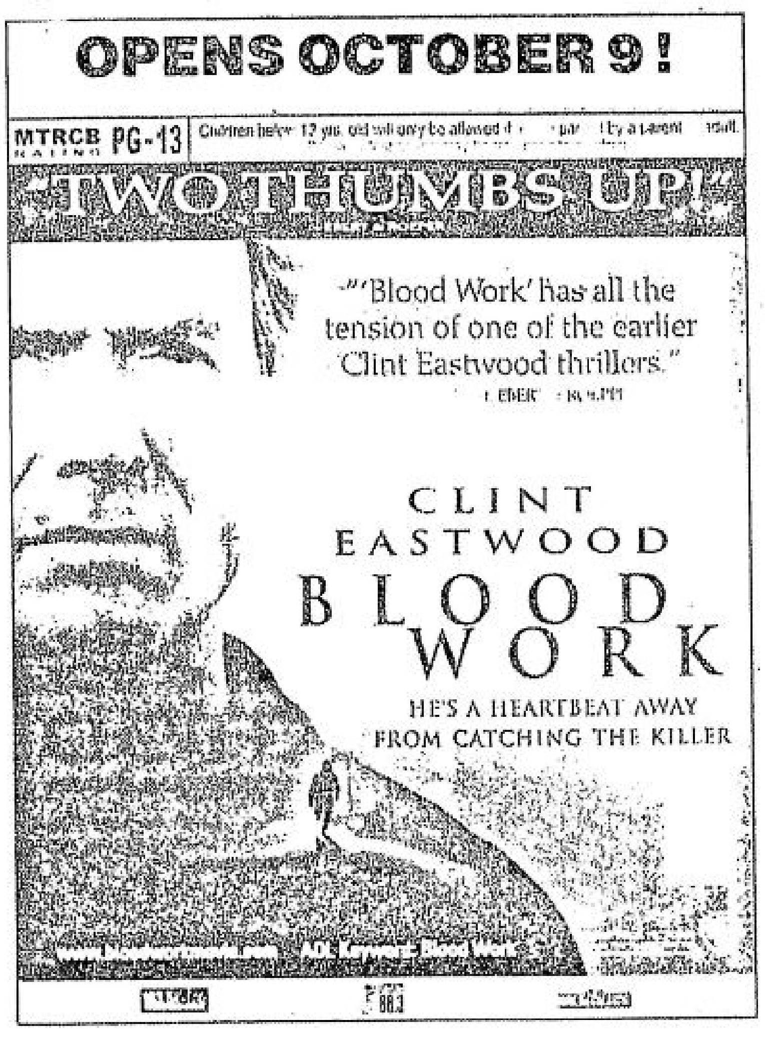
Bibeth Orteza, Lee, Balboa, Chionglo and Rahyan are among those who will conduct the scriptwriting workshops for eight Saturdays, 2 to 6 p.m.

Award-winning directors **Carlitos Siguion-Reyna** and **Jose Javier Reyes** will handle the acting workshop, to be facilitated by Chaning and Rahyan for 10 Sundays, 2 to 6 p.m.

For more details, call 925-7566 or 0916-356 1127.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ONE NIGHT STAND / DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
ODEON	TUXEDO
ODEON-2	SAM OF ALL FEAR/IKA-PITONG GLORIA
ROBEN	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SORORITY BOYS KILLING ME SOFTLY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
REMAR	TUXEDO
REMAR-2	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PROSTI
B	TUXEDO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ENOUGH
CINEMA-2	K19-THE WINDOW MAKER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KAPAG ANG PALAY NAGING BIGAS
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-6	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-8	VOODOO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	K19 WIDOWMAKER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-12	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-14	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-15	REVELATION
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	SIMONE
CINEMA 2	ORANGE COUNTY (WED) SPIRIT (SAT)
CINEMA 3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA 4	BOURNE IDENTITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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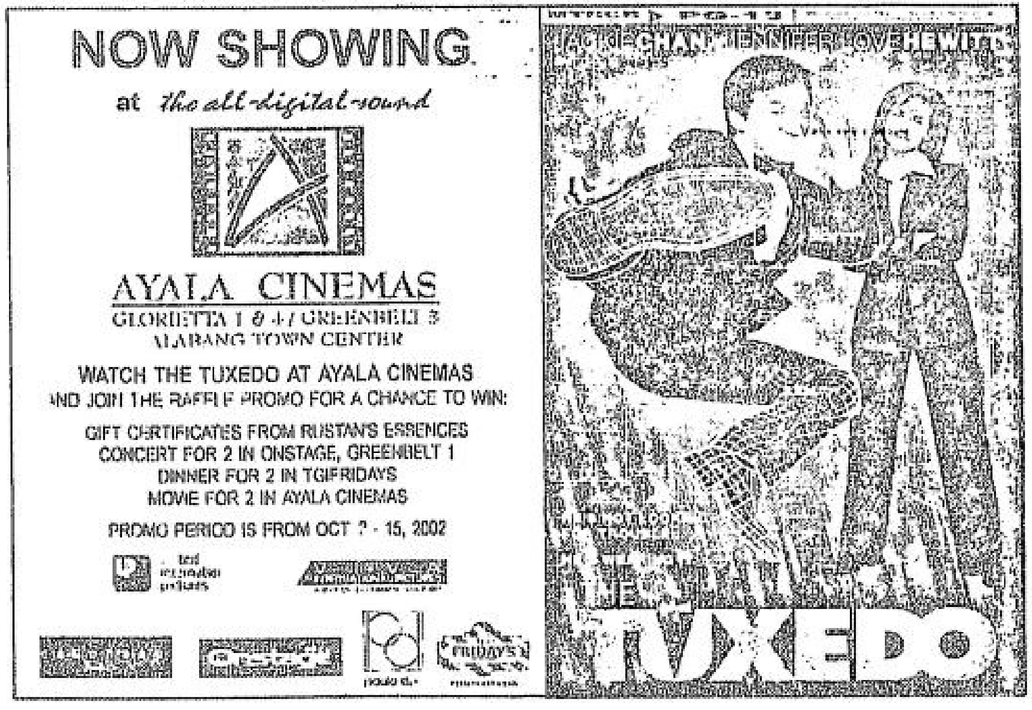
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JACKIE CHAN JENNIFER LOVE HEWITT
THE TUXEDO

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SPY KIDS 2
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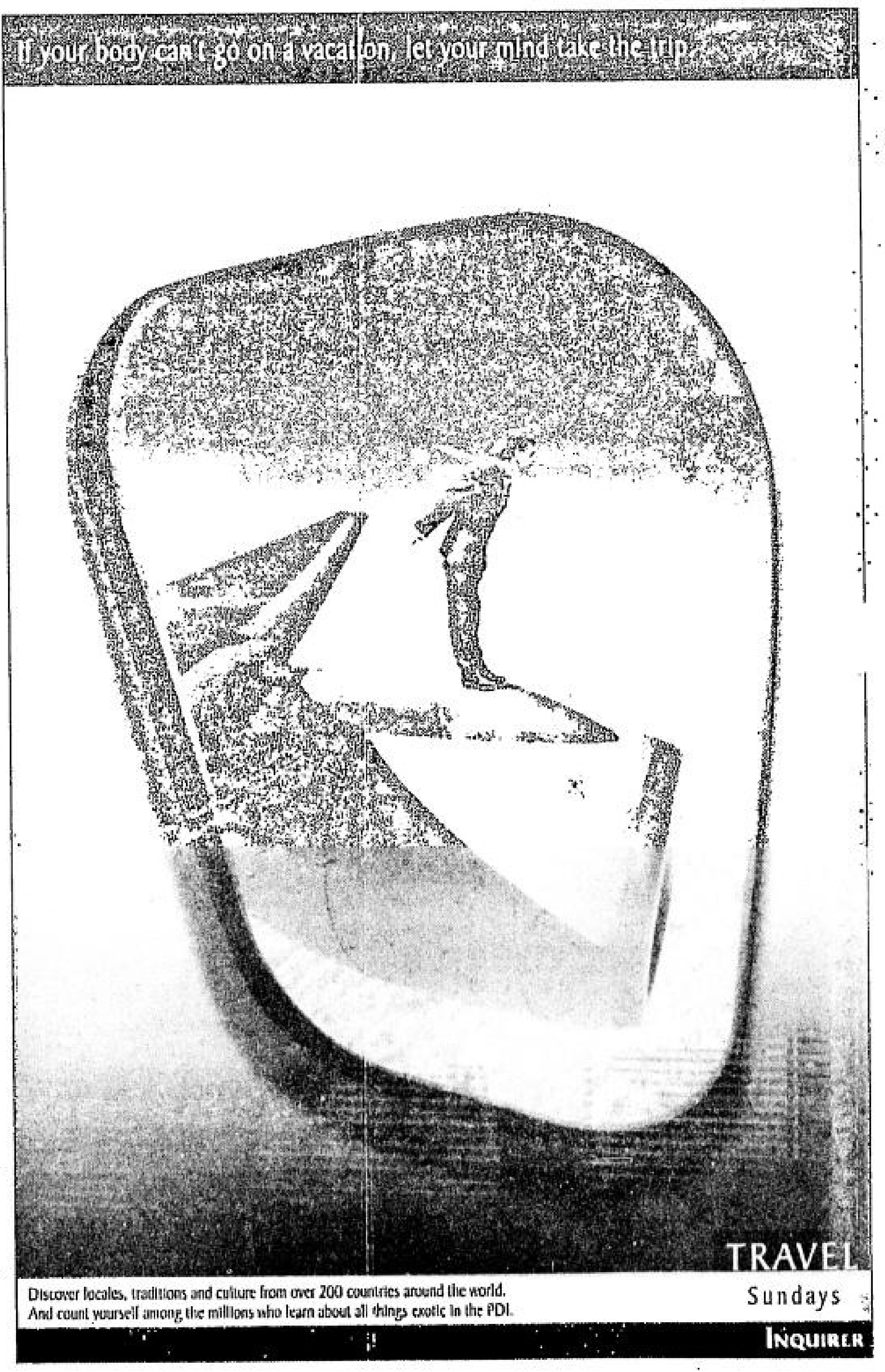
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INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Reese Witherspoon starrer tops box office

REESE Witherspoon, who charmed viewers as a bimbo-turned-lawyer in "Legally Blonde," has scored big again at the tills with her latest film, "Sweet Home Alabama," which topped the box office last weekend, grossing $ 37.5 M.

The film's achievement was made even sweeter by the fact that it trounced the even more popular **Jackie Chan**'s new starrer, "The Tuxedo," which made $15.1 M, or less than half of the boffo business that Reese's movie did.

This exceptional success has effectively made Witherspoon one of Hollywood's top female stars, right up there with the stellar ladies who earn at least $15 M per film.

How did Witherspoon "suddenly" break into the major leagues this year after years of trying? By transforming herself into this generation's **Marilyn Monroe**, the classic bimbo who proves that she's also got clever head on her shoulders.

Stars on 'Game K N B?'

CHANNEL 2's "Game Ka Na Ba?" is marking its first anniversary this week with name stars competing for cash and showcase to be donated to their favorite charities.

The star-contestants include **Edu Manzano, Vic Sotto, Judy Ann Santos** and **Jon Santos.**

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

They will be winning money for their text partners as well. And text partners in August and September will also have a chance to win special anniversary showcases.

They range from a state-of-the-art Home Theater showcase today, to P1M on Friday.

Wedding reception booboos

IT'S been a long while since we attended a classy wedding and reception, so we didn't know that such functions now employ announcers or hosts. Well, we recently saw such a wedding announcer or host in action. It was quite an experience!

At the wedding reception in a posh hotel, the announcer began by talking a mile a minute, like a deejay on a rock radio station. Ostensibly, he was greeting the people present and making them feel welcome, but in actuality, he was yakking away for his own benefit, so impressed was he with his voice and Americanized enunciation.

Since his speaking style was in fact actually quite garbled; his audience couldn't really follow his instructions. Or, when the instructions were understood, the people present didn't feel like following them.

Something to the effect like before going to the buffet table, the guests had to pose behind the bride and groom, starting with Table 1. Well, you can imagine how tedious that "new" procedure was, and how the people at Table *10* felt about it!

To make things worse, the announcer described the new system as some sort of plan for royal families. And, when people started complaining and the "plan" was subsequently cancelled, he bitchily announced that it was being dropped because "there are no Royal Families here, anyway!" Well, excuse us!

At another time, when people again didn't follow his instructions as snappily as he wanted, he sniffed, "Do you understand me? Did I speak too fast for you?—And proceeded to speak in Filipino, so that more of us could "understand" him! The nerve!

Once again, we felt like telling him that it wasn't the English language but his butchering of it that was the problem—but oh, never mind.

Some memorable examples of English-butchering:

—The priest who had presided at the wedding was introduced as "Mr. Priest Father."

—A sponsor was described as being "indefiable" when the actual word should have been "indefatiguable.".

—Another sponsor was praised for his company's "garnering two companionships," when the right word was championships."

—The newlyweds were urged to "give us a bit of a couple dance."—Translation not necessary?

—At one point, we were all instructed to "go on later with the proceedings of the ceremony propers." Duh!

—And, to "proceed with the cake cutting and the bouquet eating." Double-duh!

—And, once more, "proceed for the photo eating session!"—What's with this fixation on eating the inedible?!

—Finally, and most dismally, the people present were constantly urged (some 10 times that night) to give different important people who were introduced "a big warm of applause!" Wheee!

Thus went our encounter with the wedding Announcer from Hell. You think somebody can make a sado-masochistic, comic-tragic, pathetic-bathetic movie out of it? Starring, if possible, master spoofer **Willie Nepomuceno!**

CARTER. To stir up "Another Earthquake" in Manila.

Aaron Carter at Araneta in November

PRINCE of Pop Aaron Carter will perform live in concert Nov. 9 at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 14-year-old brother of Backstreet Boys member Nick Carter was previously in the Philippines to promote his albums, but this is the first time he will do a concert.

Aaron will sing tunes from his latest album, "Another Earthquake," like "Summertime" featuring the Baha Men, "One Thing I Need" and "I'm All About You."

The title of his latest album was inspired by the response to his previous album, according to his publicists.

The Manila event is a production of Viva Concerts and is part of Carter's "Rock, Rap and Retro Tour" of selected Asian Cities.

Also included in his Araneta repertoire are hits like "Crush On You," "Crazy Little Party Girl," "I'm Gonna Miss You Forever," "Shake It," "Surfin' USA," "I Want Candy," "Life is a Party," "AC's Alien Nation," "Baby It's You" and many others.

The blond, brown-eyed Aaron was born in Tampa, Florida on Dec. 7, 1987 to Bob and Jane Carter. He has three sisters, Bobbie Jean, Leslie and his twin Angel.

Aaron started performing when he was only seven, as the soloist of a band called Dead End. He went solo when he was nine.

His big break came when he was given the chance to open a Backstreet Boys concert in Berlin. The crowd went wild over the nine-year-old boy and the show ended with a record deal for Aaron.

He has since recorded four solo albums, participated in special projects like "Children of the World" and "Bravo All Stars" and been featured in the soundtrack of films like "Jimmy Neutron" and "Pokemon, 1st Movie."

Aaron has blond hair and brown eyes. He is 5-foot-7 tall and still growing.

He has nine dogs, two cats and two birds.

He likes chocolate ice cream, fruit roll-ups, Jolly Rancher Lollipops and, for serious eating, buffalo wings, lasagna, pizza, banana cream pie and steak.

He says that when he is old enough to drive, he will take his silver '67 Shelby Mustang GT500 for frequent spins.

His favorite subject in school is Math and he doesn't care much about Social Studies. He enjoys reading the "Harry Potter" books.

His favorite color is blue and most of his clothes are by Tommy Hilfiger.

He likes watching "Frasier" and "Johnny Bravo" and the Rob Reiner movie, "Stand by Me," which starred the late River Phoenix with Corey Feldman, Kiefer Sutherland and Richard Dreyfuss.

Aaron also likes Eminem, Sting, Christina Aguilera, Michael Jackson, N' Sync, Metallica, Dr. Dre and, of course, the Backstreet Boys.

His favorite song is "Send Her My Love" by Journey, another favorite group.

For sports, Aaron goes for dirt bike racing, motorcycling, surfing, fishing and football.

Aaron's Araneta Coliseum show also features the talented group Tribe of Levi and pop princess Kyla.

Tickets to the show are at P1,700, P1,200, P750, P350 and P150.

For inquiries, call 413-2572 or buy tickets now from Viva Concerts and the Araneta Coliseum ticket office.

Pia Guanio on gossip: My BF knows me better

AFTER **Pia Guanio** became a prominent TV personality for hosting "Magandang Umaga Bayan" (formerly "Alas Singko y Medya"), she soon realized that celebrity has a price: She has become the subject of gossip.

But Pia has learned to take everything in stride. She says even her boyfriend **Mike Jacob**, whom she fondly calls "Hunybuny," is not affected by any rumor about her.

"I just shrug off anything that is not true," Pia says. "Mike knows me better. I don't want to dwell on anything that's not worth my time."

Pia has made a big leap in television since she started as a researcher in **Loren Legarda**'s "The Inside Story." From news, she crossed over to entertainment and now enjoys the best of both worlds.

She was hosting a daily morning segment on several radio stations as a "traffic angel" when ABS-CBN spotted her. She used to give hourly traffic updates while flying over the city on board a chopper.

Today, aside from "MUB," Pia is also seen on "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"I love doing the news, but 'MTB' is a breather for me," Pia asserts. "It's fun to do a noontime show after delivering serious news early in the morning."

Joining "MTB" is her way of reaching out to more people.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"I believe my strength is really in hosting," she says.

On Thursdays, she is seen with **Ryan Agoncillo** on ABS-CBN News Channel's "Review Night," where she reviews a movie for the week.

Pia thought she could stay away from TV, so when Loren gave up "The Inside Story" when the latter entered politics and became a senator, Pia tried working in the print business. She became the associate editor of the now defunct IT magazine, Link. But she was soon lured back by the klieg lights.

"I realized I miss the bedlam in the studio, especially when the program is just about to air," Pia shares. "In 'MUB,' we go on-cam even if my other eye has no makeup yet. Hahabulin na lang ng makeup artist later during a commercial break."

Her daily morning program requires her to be in the studio before the 5 a.m. airing time. She hosts "MUB" with **Erwin Tulfo, Julius Babao, Cheryl Cosim** and **Bobby Yan.**

"That means waking up at 3:30 a.m. and then reporting to the studio at 4:15 at the latest," she says.

Does she miss having a night life?

"I don't miss it," Pia swears. "I did all that in its proper time. Now I have to be serious about work and I have no misgivings."

Of late, Pia has even become a sought-after product endorser. Aside from being the image model of Paper Dolls, she also makes a sales pitch for Clorets. Her latest TV commercial is for the new and improved Whisper for Procter and Gamble.

"I've been working since 1995," she says. "I believe I'm just reaping the result of hard work."

GUANIO

Tinta workshops

ALFRED Hitchcock once said, "To make a great movie, you need just three things — a great script, a great script and a great script."

And to be an actor or a scriptwriter requires a lot of passion, patience and persistence, according to **Rahyan Carlos**, the man behind Grupong Tinta, a non-profit organization of writers and directors from film and TV who promote the creative arts through workshops.

Grupong Tinta started holding workshops in 1999. With Carlos are fellow founding members **Joen Chionglo**, the scriptwriter of **Lino Brocka**'s "Babangon Ako at Dudurugin Kita" (which starred **Christopher de Leon, Hilda Koronel** and **Sharon Cuneta**); **Joseph Balboa**, a seasoned soap and film scriptwriter; veteran comedy director **Luciano "Chaning" Carlos**, who is Rahyan's uncle.

"We have already trained more than 200 scriptwriters through the workshops since 1999 and some are already writing for TV," said director Chaning Carlos.

Asked what is the formula behind the success of Grupong Tinta, Rahyan quotes **Albert Einstein**'s principle: "It's 99 percent perspiration and one percent inspiration."

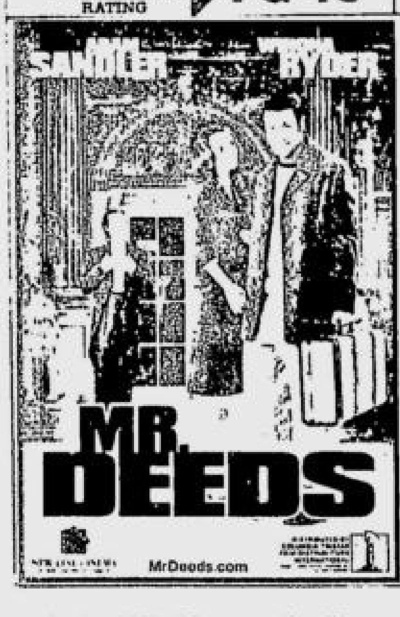
Rahyan also acknowledges the support of award-winning scriptwriter **Ricky Lee**, who has tirelessly conducted free workshops for the group.

Grupong Tinta will hold its sixth scriptwriting workshop and first basic acting workshop starting this month until December, in collaboration with the UP Film Center.

PIA/A37

MTRCB RATING PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



'Deeds,' funny Date Movie!

Laugh, fall in love! Opens Oct.9

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

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Gov't junks bid to delay RP's Afta entry

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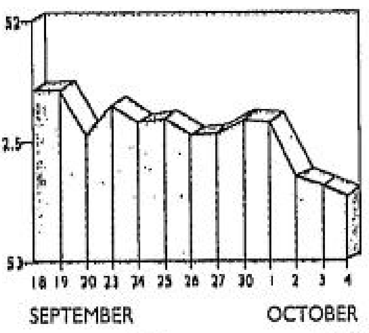

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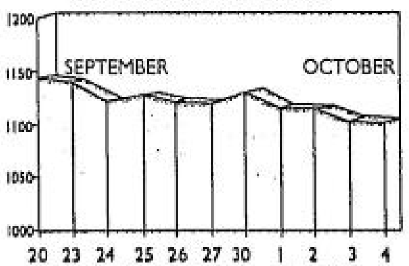
STOCK MARKET

Weak global market seen dragging down local stocks

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE STOCK market will continue to be weighed down by weak global market sentiment arising from the threats of a preemptive attack by the US on Iraq and the resulting volatility of crude prices.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell by another 1.63 percent to close at 1,101.64 on Friday.

A&A Securities head of research Astro del Castillo said the market was looking forward to the announcement of corporate earnings but

WEAK/ B6

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will push through with its participation in the Asean Free Trade Area next year as Malacañang brushed aside a plea by local industries to postpone the country's entry into the single regional market to 2004.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the government saw no compelling reason to delay the country's entry into Afta despite a torrent of petitions from industries seeking deferment of their tariff cuts.

Roxas said the country's entry into Afta next year was set as far as back as 1992, which should have provided local industries enough time to prepare. Roxas explained that the country's entry into Afta had already been deferred by one year since Afta was supposed to have started this year but the government interpreted the starting date as Dec. 31, 2002, instead of January of the same year.

Raul T. Concepcion, convenor of the Alliance of Concerned Downstream Industries, said a 6-month to 1-year delay should give more time to the Tariff Commission and the affected industries to sort out all petitions for tariff cut delays.

Concepcion said appeals for longer tariff protection have piled up since Roxas revealed the Philippines' plan to invoke the Protocol provision of Afta for petrochemicals. The Protocol allows an Asean country to delay the tariff cuts for industries that need more protection. So far, only Malaysia exercised this option by maintaining its high tariff shields on automotive imports.

Roxas said he should not be blamed if more industries have come out asking for longer tariff protection because these industries were just using all the means available to help their businesses. He noted that the government has merely advised other Asean countries of the Philippines' intent to protect its petrochemical industry and that it has yet to formalize its plan.

Roxas said the government was not limiting the Protocol option to petrochemicals because it was still reviewing the petitions of other industries wanting to get

GOV'T/ B2

Philippine auto industry at a crossroad

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

(First of a series)

B-One

THE PHILIPPINE automotive assembly industry is gearing up for a turning point in its decades-old history with the start of a single market in Southeast Asia next year.

For the first time since 1951, when the government began imposing trade restrictions on imports of completely built-up units (CBU), vehicles assembled from abroad, specifically Thailand and Indonesia, will now be allowed to come into the country at a token duty of 5 percent from the prevailing 30 percent under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT) scheme by Jan. 1 next year.

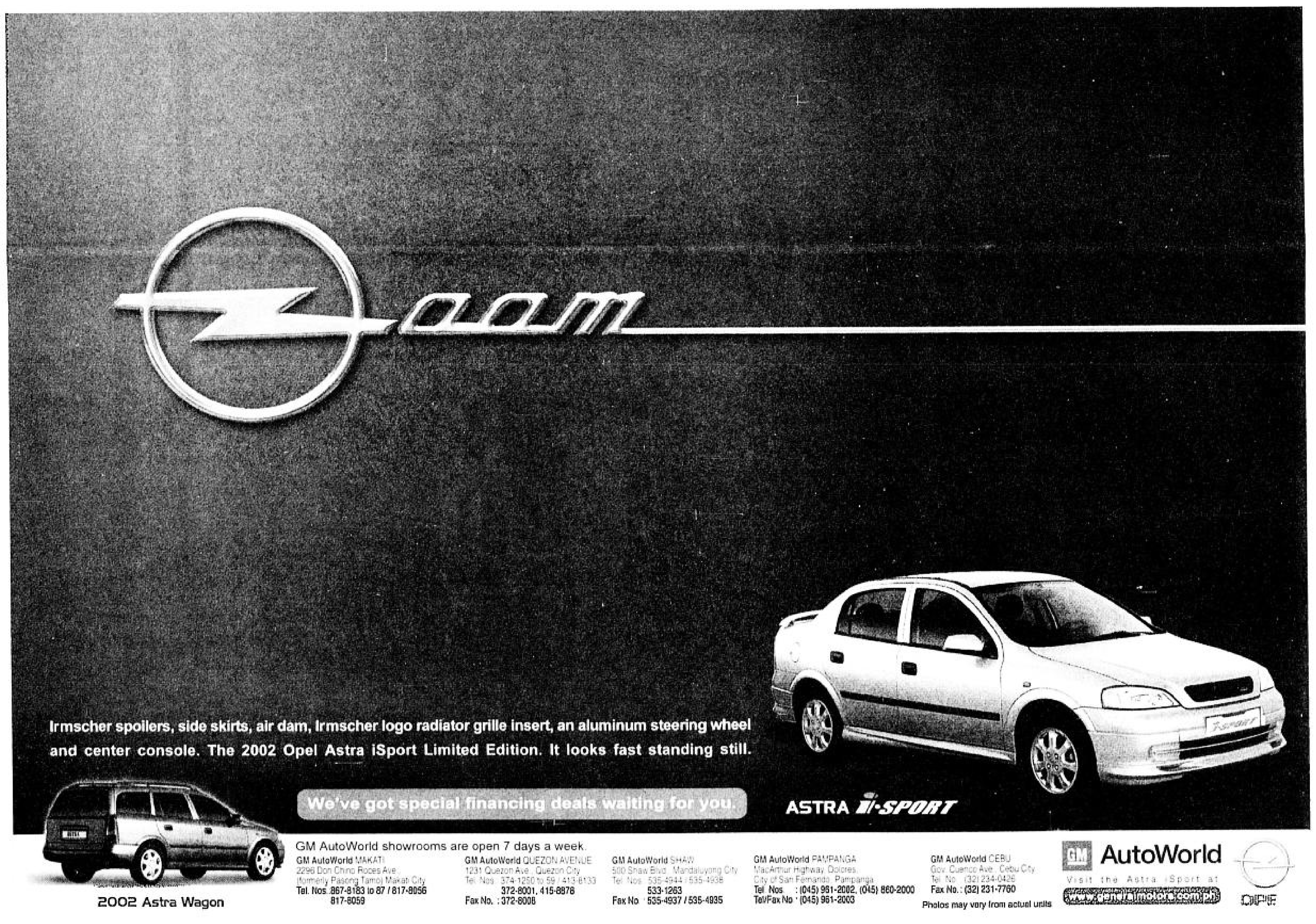
Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. president Henry Co said the drop in CBU tariff to 5 percent would make it feasible to import even entry-level models into the Philippines, unlike before when only luxury models could be brought in as imports because of their huge margins.

The high tariff walls and import restrictions were the reasons why Japanese and US automakers began investing in assembly plants in the Philippines in 1973, when the government first adopted the "Progressive Manufacturing Program" for cars, trucks and motorcycles. Over the last decade, the government gradually opened up the market to new players, allowed CBU imports and gradually lowered tariffs.

Co said the onset of Afta marked the first truly competitive period for the industry.

With trade barriers on auto imports reduced from a rampart to a mere speed hump, Co said major assemblers with multiple factories in the "Asean 4" countries could now opt to concentrate their oper-

PHILIPPINE/ B4



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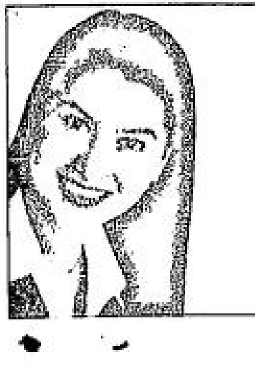

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A switch on, not a switch off

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THIS time we want to see the sparks fly.

The reconstitution of Napocor into Transco has somewhat created a Catch-22 situation for Mindanao. Unlike its predecessor, Transco focuses more on energy distribution and has shed off Napocor's primary responsibility of power generation. This opens up a black hole of sorts, especially for a relatively booming economy like Mindanao.

The Department of Energy's Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) has projected that Mindanao would experience a power shortage come year 2005. It's more of a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't scenario. Unless the situation is properly addressed, the island region is headed into a massive switch off that will have horrendous effects on its economy. There go the potential investments, there go the jobs, there crumbles the fulfillment of the land of promise.

Mindanao's present installed power generation capacity was placed at 1,667.73 megawatts, a figure that accounts for major installations and other facilities such as mini-hydroelectric power plants. The figure is broken down by source as follow: 109 MW, oil-thermal; 438 MW, diesel; 997 MW, main hydro installations; 108 MW, geothermal, and 20.73 MW, miscellaneous mini-hydro and fuel-based installations in some municipalities and provinces.

The DOE uses a base figure of 85 percent to quantify the dependable supply capacity in its power development projections. When the figure is applied in relation to the installed generating capacity in Mindanao, one comes up with a dependable generating capacity of at least 1,000 MW for 2002.

The DOE supply-demand profile for the Mindanao grid based on the dependable capacity rate projects a shortfall of at least 100 MW by 2005. It is worth noting that the supply-demand profile mentioned here is based on a low gross domestic product (GDP) scenario.

Senior Presidential Adviser for Mindanao Paul Dominguez stresses that the power generation capacity in Mindanao is adequate for the moment since the National Steel Corp. (NSC) is offline. NSC, whose daily energy requirement is pegged at 200 MW, stopped operations in 1999. It surely will be a headache if the NSC goes online again and Transco is ill prepared to provide its power requirement.

A new power plant takes about five years from construction to operation. The question is: What government agency is tasked to look after this concern?

Malacañang decided that Napocor is no longer viable as it is saddled by heavy debts. It is now understood that the private sector has to take the cue, but again the question is: Who will approve contracts and other instruments or legalities related to the industry?

Transco's charter doesn't specify who.

We need a steady energy resource for our agro-industries and small and medium enterprises. A determined approach to this problem is needed in order to avert tremendous revenue losses arising from a power crisis. The government must not leave Mindanao hanging on a limb. What we need is a switch-on not a switch-off.

* * *

STAKEHOLDERS in the development of Mindanao's information and communications technology sector will converge in Davao City on Oct. 15-16, 2002 for the 2nd Mindanao Information and Communications Technology (MICT) Congress.

The Congress will tackle the following : "Enhancing Trade Linkages: The Continuing Evolution of Communication Tools"; "Apec General Agreement on Trade and Services for Information Technology Schools"; "World Market for E-Services"; "Human Resource Programs for ICT"; "E-Governance: Enhancing Transparency and Improving Services"; "Cost Effective Solutions for Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Operations"; "Information Technology in the Academe"; "Improving your Business with ICT," and "E-Learning: Preparing your Business to Grow."

Interested participants and corporate exhibitors to the 2nd MICT are free to call The Mindanao Business Council Secretariat, Tel. (082) 224-2581/225-0763. You could also send your email inquiries to mbcphil@mozcom.com or mbcphil@yahoo.com.

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DTI readies plan to soften impact of high wheat prices

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is preparing a contingency plan to mitigate the impact on the local market of escalating world prices of wheat due to low harvest in the US and Canada which it feared could nudge prices of flour-based products in the country, specifically noodles and bread.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the DTI had met with officials of the Philippine Association of Flour Millers to assess their supply situation and forecast the price movement of flour in the market.

Roxas said the DTI wanted the flour millers to bare the purchase prices of their wheat supplies since these were normally coursed through futures contract. "We want to know how much their wheat inventory were obtained at the low strike price because this would show how long they could hold off from raising their prices," Roxas said.

Roxas reported that while prices of hard and soft flour have increased between P35 and P45 per bag or roughly 10 percent over the last three months, it has led to a minimal increase in retail prices of flour, bakery products and noodles. He said the DTI had asked Pafmil to explain the basis for the price increase but the industry group has yet to submit its response.

Roxas said in case wheat prices would continue to go up, the DTI was drawing up a contingency plan to ease the impact of higher wheat prices especially on low-income households (the biggest buyers of instant noodles and pan de sal) by providing them with cheaper commodities such as rice.

The Philippines is a big importer of wheat, buying 3 million tons a year—2 million tons used for flour and 1 million tons for animal feeds. Experts estimate that 65 percent of the wheat used for flour comes from United States and 30 percent from Canada.

Wheat harvest in the US and Canada are expected to fall sharply this year due to a drought. The US output was expected to drop to a 30-year low of 45 million tons and Canada production seen to slip to a 28-year low of 15.45 million tons.

Pafmil earlier announced that it was considering buying wheat from Argentina, France and Poland to offset mounting prices from the US, Canada and Australia.

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Gov't ...

From page B1

similar relief, such as the steel, aluminum and pulp and paper sectors.

However, he stressed that keeping an open mind on tariff issues did not mean that the government was wavering on its trade liberalization commitments. Concepcion has criticized the government for sending mixed signals to the business community on its trade policies, vowing to uphold free trade policies while agreeing to raise duties on select products.

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ICTSI earmarks $100-M war chest

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. has earmarked some $100 million to bid for overseas port terminal operations in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

ICTSI chair Enrique Razon said the company would continue to look for opportunities beyond the country's shores, considering the lack of growth in the domestic market.

"Our volumes are back to their 1997 levels. That's flat growth in five years, which means we have to look for other markets for expansion specially if our economy does not pick up," Razon said.

One bright spot in ICTI's operations at the Manila International Container Terminal is the strong growth in transshipment volume.

"We're benefiting from the flow of goods from North and South Asia. Transshipment goods account for 5 percent of our volume from zero percent three to five years ago, and we expect it to grow further," Razon said.

Razon remained confident that ICTSI would continue to be a major player in international port management services.

"There are only a few port operators that operate outside their home market. We're just one of five or seven which bid in ports being privatized all over the world."

He said ICTSI's strength lies in its management expertise and experience, having been a long-time operator of Manila's ports for decades.

He said port management required a different set of skills and long experience to work out the complicated task of directing cargo traffic in busy ports.

Camacho backs $6-B regional bond market

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was supporting the move of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to establish a regional bond market that would pool at least $6 billion in state capital.

The money would be drawn from the reserves of participating countries, including the Philippines.

"I foresee the development of a regional bond market, recognizing the growing support among Asia to regional market exercises of its peers," Camacho said, adding that the plan had already been discussed last month.

New oil firm announces entry into LPG market

NEW oil firm Petroline Services has announced its entry into the liquefied petroleum gas business with a strategic partnership with Cat Gas Inc. signed on Thursday.

Petroline president Macky Lopez said in an interview that the partnership allowed the firm to retail LPG through its affiliate, Flying V.

Petroline helps Flying V in the latter's supply needs in liquid fuels. The two firms are managed by the same group, although they are not under a holding company.

"We will introduce Petroline LPG in about 45 Flying V stations in Luzon," Lopez said.

The official, who is also part of the Flying V management, said the move aimed to provide Flying V dealers added revenues.

He explained that Cat Gas would supply Petroline products including cylinders at 5 kilograms, 11 kgs and 50 kgs.

"We are tapping not only the residential segment of the market but also the industrial part," he said.

Lopez did not say how much investment was involved in the partnership with Cat Gas, but he said the venture would extend nationwide.

"We would expand our LPG venture to the Visayas and Mindanao by the first quarter of 2003," he said.

The move is seen to further increase the share of new industry players in the local market. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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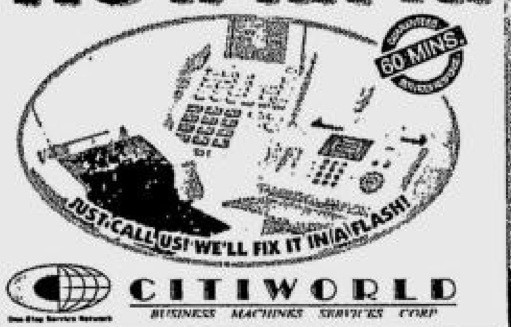
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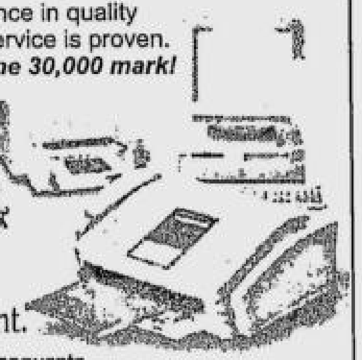
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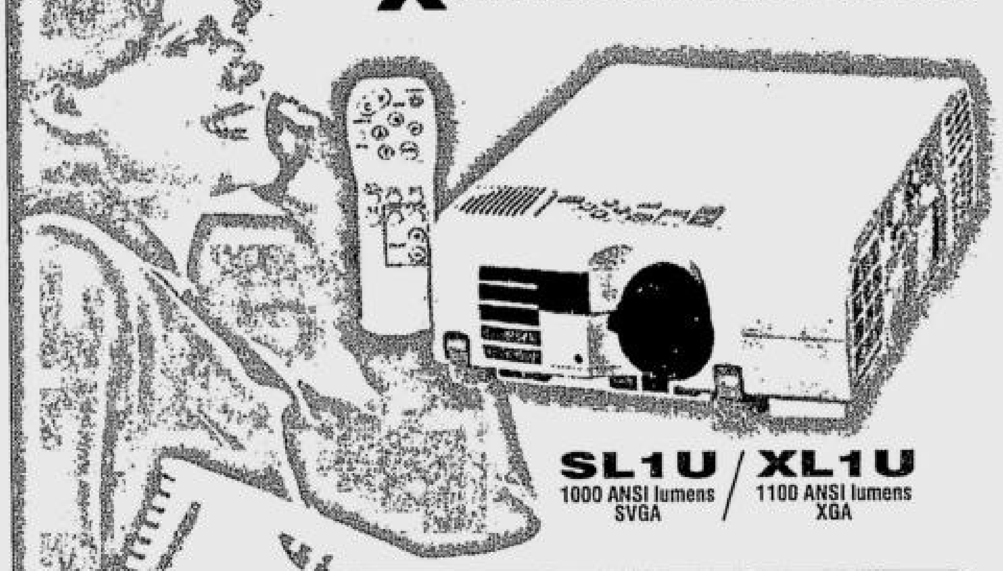
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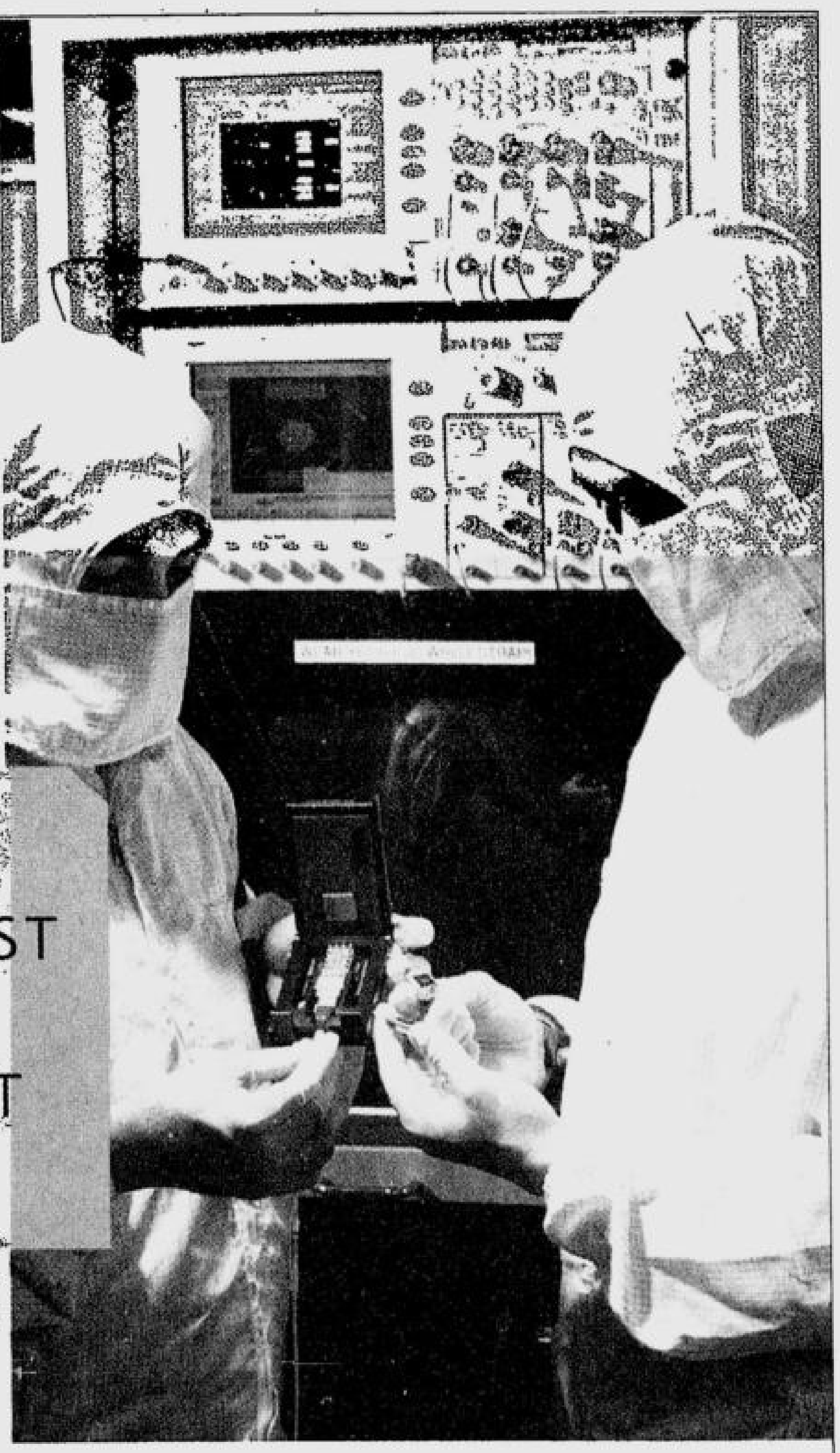
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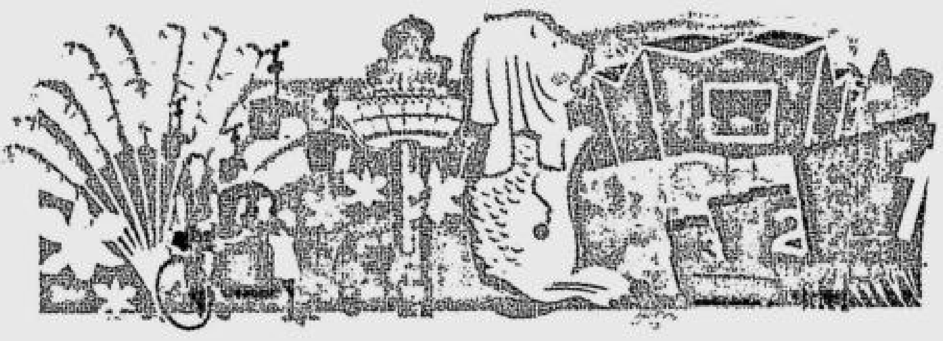
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Suntec Singapore
Website: http://www.powergenasia.com
Estimated no. of visitors: 4,000
Estimated no. of participating companies: 150
Power-Gen Asia is the primary exhibition and conference within the Asian-Pacific power market. The exhibition will showcase products and services for the electric power, transmission and distribution industries.
29 Oct – 1 Nov
☐ OSEA 2002
Suntec Singapore
Website: http://www.osea-asia.com
Estimated no. of visitors: 7,000
Estimated no. of participating companies: 900
OSEA 2002 brings together manufacturers and suppliers of products, services and technologies associated with petroleum exploration, production, refining and processing as well as marine engineering. The event also incorporates RLP Asia 2002 (Asian International Refining LNG & Petrochemical Technology Exhibition and Conference) and WeldTech Asia 2002 (International Welding, Surface Treatment and Joining Technology Exhibition).
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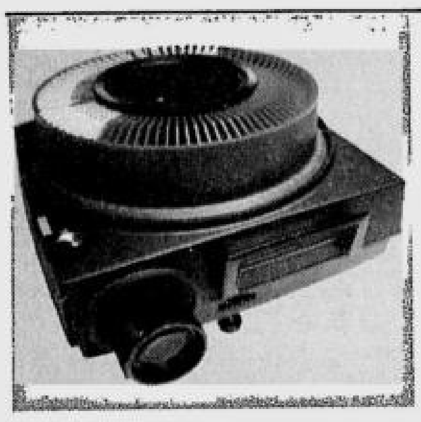
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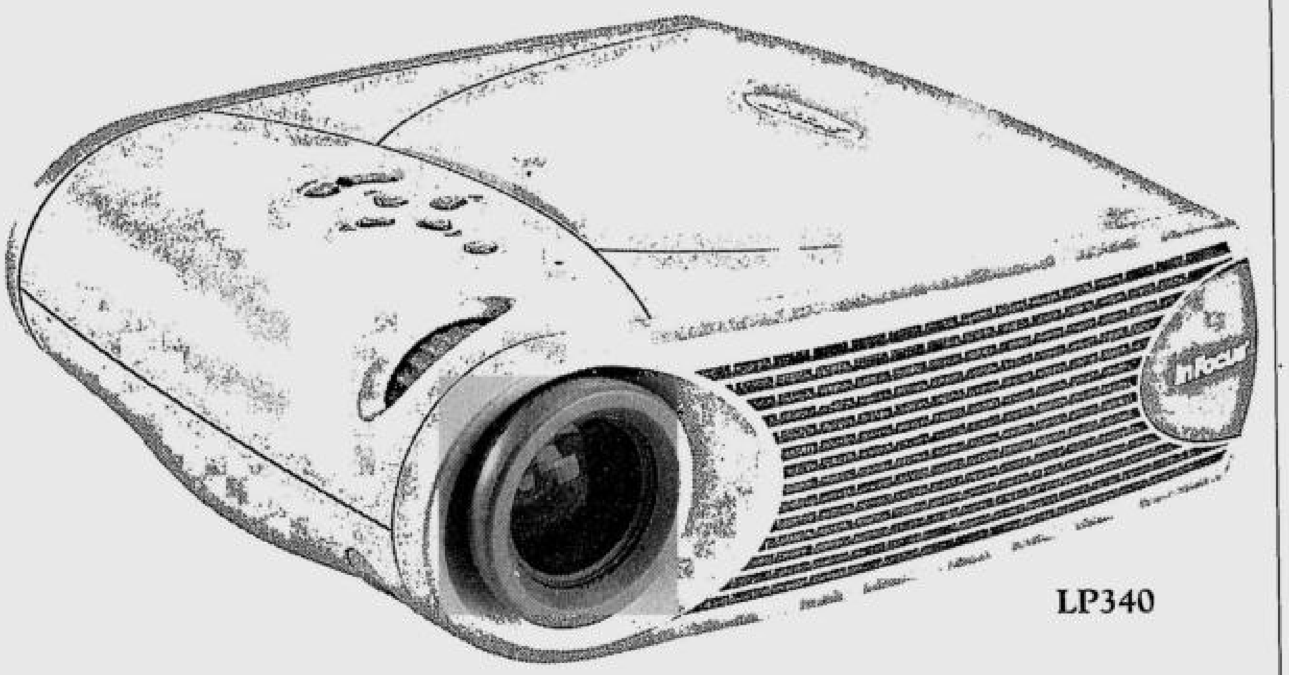
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Philippine auto industry at a crossroad

From page B1

ations in the cheapest and most efficient country to gain higher economies of scale in supplying the entire region's demand.

This will have serious implications on the local industry, which assembles mostly the compact sedans and low-end pickup trucks, Co said. "Assemblers would now have to compete not only with rival brands but also with their own plants from Thailand or Indonesia that might be making the same models more efficiently," he said.

The coming changes are what drove Ford to close down its Ranger pickup assembly plant here and bring in units from Thailand, where the model is produced in bigger volume. "The Philippine market is too small. No assembler can survive if it will only focus on the domestic market."

Indeed, if the local industry's chances of survival in Afta will be based on current auto sales of the Asean 4, local assemblers will be in mourning once the tariff walls come tumbling down next year

Asean minnow

The Philippine market had sales of 76,670 units in 2001, a minnow compared to Malaysia's 396,381, Indonesia's 299,607 and Thailand's 297,052.

Thailand, whose auto industry benefited the most from a single market, had a bigger market 15 years ago than the Philippines' current turnover. Thailand has long been favored by the auto gods who have been placing their bets in this country since the mid-1990s because of its robust economic growth and strategic location in the Indo-China peninsula.

Dubbed the "Detroit of Asia," Thailand is considered the world's largest market for one-ton pickup trucks after Mitsubishi—Thailand's biggest auto exporter—Toyota, Ford and Isuzu consolidated their pickup factories in this landlocked country.

Toyota and Honda produce and export their Asian cars—the Soluna and City—from Thailand, while General Motors and BMW have established factories there.

With Asean's vehicle sales expected to double to 2 million in 2006 from 1.07 million in 2001, Thailand's share of the region's market is expected to grow by more than three times to 940,000 units. For the Philippines, even the most optimistic forecasts peg its market to grow to 250,000 by 2006, or just 12.5 percent of total sales in the region.

If the Philippines is not expected to be the auto production hub in the region, should the Japanese assemblers close down their shops and import from their more efficient subsidiaries in the region? Will auto companies follow the way of other multinational companies that have converted their manufacturing concerns into trading arms over the last four years in the face of increasing trade liberalization?

The Automotive Industry Workers Alliance, composed of labor unions of various Japanese assemblers and parts makers in the country, has warned of a massive retrenchment arising from the sharp reduction in duties under Afta.

In a position paper, Aiwa said closing down an assembly plant would be a wise business decision because local factories were "far, far behind" other Asean countries in terms of technology. But their Japanese employers think otherwise.

No plant closures

In a market where everything counts in large amounts, Japanese assemblers, which account for nine out of 10 of all vehicles sold in the market, are keeping their assembly lines in the Philippines intact in the near term, although most have kept their long-term plans close to their chest.

"We cannot tell you our plans yet, but we want to assure everyone that we will maintain our assembly operations in the Philippines with the start of Afta," Isuzu Philippines Corp. executive vice president Hiroshi Ishino said, a response echoed by his Japanese peers in the industry.

Ishino said despite its sprawling production facilities in Thailand (pickups) and Indonesia (AUVs), Isuzu has no plans of shutting down its relatively modest factory in the Philippines.

"We're operating at 80 percent of our capacity, why should we close down?" he asked. Isuzu Philippines has a production capacity of 15,000 units a year.

Ishino added that Isuzu had yet to decide whether it would expand or supplement its product line in the Philippines by bringing in more CBU models here. "The Japanese are careful in making their plans known because, when we make a commitment, we do so on a long-term basis," Ishino said.

Ditto with Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. senior vice president Serafin Pantaleon, who expects Toyota to retain its current knocked-down production line. "We want to see first how Afta works out in the industry before taking action," Pantaleon said.

Toyota Philippines has a production capacity of 50,000 units a year.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. assistant vice president Alfredo Magpayo admitted that some assemblers might be forced to realign their operations and close down their production lines of models with low sales volumes while replacing them with CBU imports.

"Assemblers have no choice but to focus their production on their most profitable lines, while getting new and slow-moving product lines from overseas," Magpayo said.

Honda, which has a production capacity of 30,000 units a year, has decided to retain its current knocked down assembly of City, Civic, CR-V and Accord, while it has yet to finalize whether it will bring in new models as CBUs from other Asean countries. *(To be continued)*

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Religious group faces suit over failed TV deal

By Elena R. Torrijos

AS the "Jesus Is Lord" Christian movement founded by preacher Eddie Villanueva celebrates its 24th anniversary, it also faces pressures to return some P78 million invested by the group of businessman Benito Araneta and advertising veteran Greg Garcia III for the agreed takeover of television station Channel 11.

The Araneta-Garcia group's Entertainment Network and the JIL's Zoe Broadcasting Network Inc. signed in June last year an agreement to form a 60-40 joint venture in favor of Enter-Net.

The joint venture was to assume the functions of managing, providing programming content and marketing for Channel 11.

In exchange, Zoe Broadcasting would get P100 million in "goodwill" money.

Enter-Net director for business development Aba Matute said Zoe Broadcasting refused to turn over management of the television station, and that the two groups had been unable to reach a compromise since late last year.

As a result, Matute said, Enter-Net is now asking that Zoe Broadcasting reimburse the sum of P78 million representing cash paid directly to the Villanueva family, CNBC programming costs and advances for Zoe Broadcasting operating expenses.

In a letter last month, Garcia threatened to sue Villanueva unless the self-styled Christian leader delivers on his company's promises.

Matute complained that Zoe Broadcasting officials had been delaying the filing of a case against them.

"Criminal and civil cases will be filed this week," Matute said

Documents showed that Zoe Broadcasting executive vice president Emmanuel Joel Villanueva notified Araneta, Enter-Net chair, in December that Zoe Broadcasting intended to terminate the joint-venture agreement because Enter-Net failed to provide enough money to cover Channel 11's operating expenses and pay its employees.

Gov't shaves P26B off debt payments on lower interest

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has shaved some P26 billion off its debt payments as of September—up by about P5 billion over the previous month—on lower interest rates.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said preliminary data showed that the government saved some P23 billion from local debt payments and another P3 billion from foreign debt payments.

As of August, the government has managed to trim some P20.66 billion worth of debt payments, as interest rates have remained low.

The savings stood at around P16.7 billion in the first six months of the year.

Despite these huge savings, however, the government's budget deficit is still expected to hit P185 billion by year's end.

As of last month, the deficit stood at P160 billion from P144 billion in August.

The government earlier estimated that its deficit would not go beyond P130 billion this year. Its economic managers, however, have conceded that this target is no longer possible, and that their efforts are now focused on containing the deficit to as low a level as possible.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he remained hopeful that the government would be able to keep the deficit to an amount equivalent to 4 percent of gross domestic product.

"I am still reasonably confident that we could meet the deficit target. If we can sustain the improvement in revenue collection in the last two months, then we would have a better chance of achieving the target," Camacho said.

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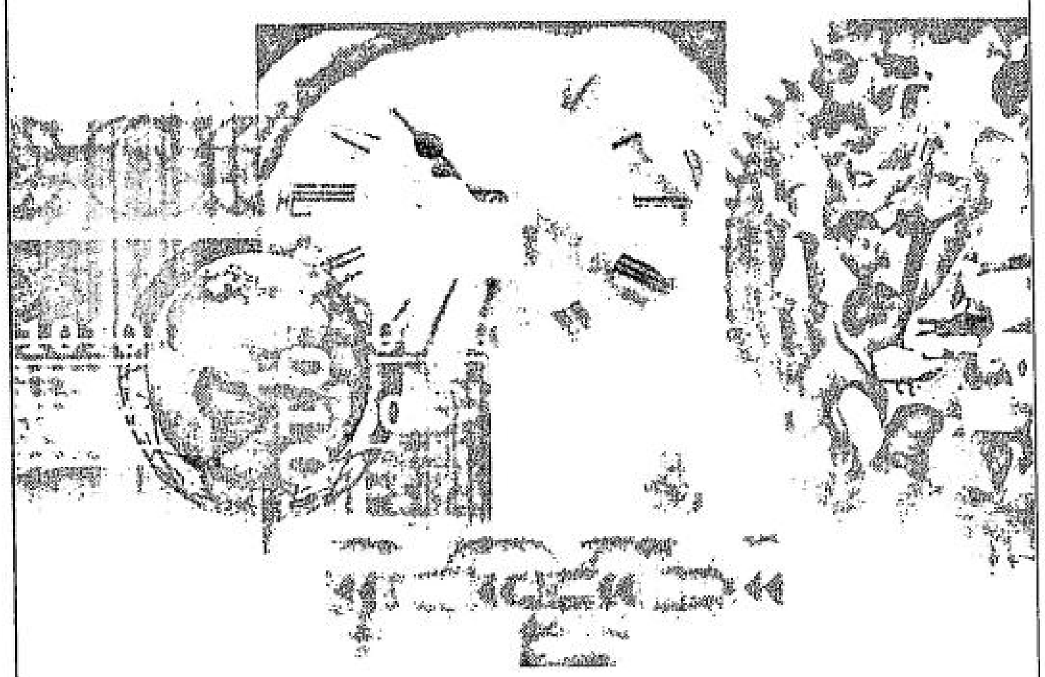

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Is it Saddam who's sane or Bush?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

IT is difficult to keep one's sense of humor when the stock market just keeps going down in ever-declining volume. Last Tuesday, net turnover, excluding cross sales, hit a record low of P61 million. And the PSE is planning to extend trading hours! As it is, business is so bad that when the telephone rang, the first time in three weeks, we all rushed to answer it, only to discover it was someone's alarm clock going off.

This week alone, I have lost $5 million playing poker and $3 million playing blackjack. Others watch basketball or tapes, and some have brought portable beds. On payday, the traders collect their commission in coins, and blow it all on a Big Mac. If you are thinking of making a career in stock brokering, make sure you are anorexic or bulimic, as it is unlikely you will eat very often.

One day, last month, the PSE computer broke down for the whole morning. Apparently, there was so little data passing through, that the server fell asleep. As there is no reference to this in the manual, the I.T. guys did not know how to wake it up. They tried rebooting it (kicking it) but this did not work. One bright technician came to the rescue by tickling it, and the problem was solved.

We are the smallest stock market in Asia, but if you include Asia-Pacific Region, then Fiji is even smaller. Set up in 1979, their stock market has nine stocks and three brokers. They open twice a week at 10:30 a.m., do an average of two to three trades, and close at 10:45 a.m. We should follow their example. Now for some limericks to alleviate your depression:

An imperious couple named Kelly
Must go through life, belly to belly.
Because in their haste
They used sticky paste
Instead of petroleum jelly.

* * *

A renegade priest from Liberia,
Whose morals were clearly inferior,
Once did to a nun,
What he shouldn't have done,
And now she's a Mother Superior.

* * *

He hated to sew, so young Ned
Rang the bell of his neighbor instead;
But her husband said, "Vi,
When you've stitched his torn fly,
There's no need to bite off the thread."

Wall Street has had its worst September since the Great Depression that started in 1929. Actually, I was born in 1930 as a direct result of it, as my father was unemployed, and there was no TV. Einstein's famous equation shows that the more men laid off, the more women are laid on. The Dow fell 18 percent and the Nasdaq 20 percent. The chipmakers are becoming increasingly concerned not only with this year's profits but also with 2003. All the tech stocks have been under pressure except Dell, which is increasing its share of the market. The biotech sector is still suffering and even some of the retail stores seem to be slowing down. Only the house-building sector and the automotive manufacturers seem to be doing well.

The FDA published some interesting statistics on life expectancy. The Japanese live 77 years, the French and Germans 76, Britons 75, African-Americans 58 and Nasdaq traders 27. Is it any wonder, when the Dow goes up and down hundreds of point's everyday? There is a rumor that life assurance companies will double the premium on any applicant who holds stocks in the Nasdaq.

As I predicted, numerous US companies downgraded, or announced disappointing results for the third quarter, and some are making worrisome comments about the last quarter. But the immediate future of all stock markets depends on whether there will be war with Iraq. Personally, I hope not, but President Bush is in a very determined mood and there is no way that the 54 palaces of Saddam Hussein can be excluded from a search by the weapons inspectors. So, I fear that the new UN resolution will not be supported. Russia, China and Germany will abstain, and the US will go ahead with the reluctant participation of the UK.

Should this occur, oil prices will soar, and stock markets everywhere will fall sharply, particularly if Scud missiles will be used to destroy Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti and possibly even Iranian oil fields. A crash in stock markets, while undesirable, would provide an excellent opportunity to BUY because the markets will eventually recover, as they did after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11 last year. It needs courage to buy when a war is in progress, but it is right to buy when everyone else is panicking. History, even in my lifetime, has shown this to be true, time and time again.

Some months ago, I recommended some websites for readers who were interested in learning about technical analysis without spending thousands on imported books. I have another website: Tsupitero.Com. This is run by Miko Sayo and devotes much space to explaining what technical analysis is, and how and why you should use it. It gives a daily and weekly analysis of the Phisix, Dow and Nasdaq, and also picks one stock for the week, SMCB. It tells you which books to read and has some second hand books available at a discount. He also interviews a different technical analyst each month, giving details of his experience and trading methods. This month he has some guy called OSO TORO, a superb technician who reveals all his secrets. Read it. I found it fascinating. As always, I am available at mrbearbull@hotmail.com. but I usually sleep from 9:30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Weak global market seen dragging down local stocks

From page B1

sentiment would likewise be affected by the movement of the peso as well as the bombings in the South.

"We are not too optimistic about the third quarter but we're hoping that some companies will declare growth in earnings," Del Castillo said.

He said the market would likely consolidate at about 1,190.

Hopefully, bargain-hunting will cushion the fall below that level. "What I'm trying to say is that I hope that this support level will hold," Del Castillo said.

He said that among the factors that could further dampen sentiment would be an escalation in the bombings in Mindanao.

"The market will also watch out for the continued weakness of the peso because this will have an adverse impact on companies with dollar-denominated debts as well as exporters that depend heavily on imports for their raw materials," Del Castillo said.

He said the market would likewise continue to monitor specific corporate developments like updates on the power struggle within Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., following the withdrawal of the takeover bid by the Gokongwei group.

Equitable PCI Bank chief market strategist Michael Ricafort said the index had yet to manifest a reversal of the downward momentum seen since mid-September this year but was close to nearing oversold levels.

Thus, a bear market bounce toward the initial trend line resistance at 1,114-1,116 remains feasible in the coming week," Ricafort said.

Ricafort said the initial support was at the psychological 1,100 level while the next support was at 1,092.71.

"The 11-month low of 1,083.91 posted last Aug. 27, 2001 remains at risk for now," Ricafort said, noting that major stock markets across the globe were likewise on a downturn.

"The rising trend in global crude oil price translates to lower earnings for most listed companies that consider oil as part of input costs rather than revenues, thereby translating to lower stock prices," he said.

Philstocks.net agreed that with the string of local and foreign concerns, the market might be headed further south toward the year-lows.

"Bargain-hunting may come in at the 1,090 support level but it is likely to remain thin. The fourth quarter tends to be a good time for stocks to move up, with lots of investors optimistic of the coming year," said Philstocks.net.

Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, October 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	31,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	44	43.5	43.5	59,800
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	20,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33	32	32	176,000
Philippine National Bank	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	23,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	400,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1050	1050	1020	1020	1,060
Sun Life Financial Serv.	820	820	805	805	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	6,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	640,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	445	450	445	450	9,560
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
Piltel	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	270	277.5	270	275	60,890
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	21,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18	18	25,300
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	28.5	29	492,300
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	244,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	117,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	21,102,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	7,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	394,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	35,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	149,400
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	59.5	59	59.5	32,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	50,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	542,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.42	2.38	2.4	1,536,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	200,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	85,200
Ionics Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	25,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	8,620,000
*Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,380,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	250,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	42,700
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	287,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5,895,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,472,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	1,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	410,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,524,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	3,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	753,830	12,958,000.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	58,485,950	145,813,505.00
PRO	13,122,000	53,743,160.00
Mining	11,000,000	28,600.00
OIL	20,200,000	58,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	103,561,780	212,601,265.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	425.88	UNCH 0.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,528.05	DOWN 0.17
PRO	493.52	DOWN 3.78
Mining	1,096.92	DOWN 8.77
OIL	1.21	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	590.17	DOWN 14.66
Composite	1,101.64	DOWN 1.64

NO. OF ADVANCES: 7; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 64; NO. OF TRADES: 875

CURRENCIES

Oct. 4, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012453	1.000000	52.6550
Japan	Yen	0.008258	0.008156	0.4295
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589450	1.569900	82.6631
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129809	0.128212	6.7510
Switzerland	Franc	0.684877	0.676453	35.6186
Canada	Dollar	0.636203	0.628378	33.0872
Singapore	Dollar	0.568155	0.561167	29.5482
Australia	Dollar	0.552800	0.546001	28.7497
Bahrain	Dinar	2.685623	2.652590	139.6721
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269988	0.266667	14.0414
Brunei	Dollar	0.566091	0.559128	29.4409
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023259	0.022973	1.2096
UAE	Dirham	0.275685	0.272294	14.3376
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.000819	0.0431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987700	52.0073
Argentina	Real	0.270710	0.267380	14.0789
Brazil	Real	0.274303	0.270929	14.2658
Denmark	Kroner	0.134586	0.132931	6.9995
India	Rupee	0.020971	0.020713	1.0906
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266471	0.263193	13.8584
Mexico	New Peso	0.099582	0.098357	5.1790
New Zealand	Dollar	0.483549	0.477601	25.1481
Norway	Kroner	0.136694	0.135013	7.1091
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017160	0.016949	0.8924
South Africa	Rand	0.097551	0.096351	5.0734
Sweden	Kroner	0.109973	0.108620	5.7194
Syria	Pound	0.022906	0.022624	1.1913
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029019	0.028662	1.5092
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000683	0.000675	0.0355

GOINGS-ON

SGS' new managing director

THE SGS group, a leading verification, testing and certification company, announced the appointment of David William Robinson as the new managing director of SGS Philippines. Robinson is responsible for the management and operations of all SGS services in the Philippines and Guam.

Robinson, a British national, has a very good knowledge of the Philippines, its people and business having spent over eight years in the country. As CEO of SGS Global Trade Solutions Manila office, he managed the (former) SGS contract operation with the Philippine Bureau of Customs and managing other offices and SGS services in other Asian countries, Africa, America and Europe.

Furniture retailing

TO mark its 25th year in furniture retailing, Blims Fine Furniture is holding a 10-day exhibit of its latest collection of world-class brands of furniture from the US, Malaysia, Taiwan,Thailand and Italy. Titled "Naughty or Nice," the exhibit is ongoing at the activity center of the Alabang Town Center (new wing). It will end on Oct. 11. At the exhibit are noted brands like Simmons, Alaindeello, Ameriwood, O'Sullivan, Italsofa, South Shore, L-A-Z-Boy, as well as new lines of appliances from Sony, and Christmas decorations and furnishings from Designer Blooms and other well-known local suppliers.

Blims is credited for having introduced many "firsts" in the furniture industry. These include the concept of one-stop shop, the ready-to-use and ready-to-deliver furniture for homes and offices. It also pioneered the "designer collection" and "branded" furniture concept in the 1980s. It was the first to offer customers free professional interior design consultations.

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Capitol Hills	180 000	BUYING:	
Eagle Ridge A/C	210-490	Alabang A	1 450M
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	190/220/230	Alta Vista A/B	290/310
Manila Golf (Indiv.)/Corp	10M	Calatagan A	70 000
Manila Polo	2 650M	Canlubang Golf	450 000
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	600/600	Capitol Hills	100 000
Makati Sports "A"	230 000	Celebrity	180 000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/C	330-450	Eagle Ridge A/C	300/450
Sta Elena A/B	1 68/1 5M	Fontana A/C	150-60
Subic Yacht (Indiv.)	120 000	Manila Southwoods "A"/B	550-550
		Mt. Malarayat C	450 000
		Quezon City Sports	200 000
		Tagay. Highland Club	380 000
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CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	-
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	100,000.00	Please call
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000.00	-
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"	500,000.00	-
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	150,000.00	Please call
FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	-
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "C"	250,000.00	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	600,000.00	Please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	-	Please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	Please call	10,000,000.00
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MIMOSA (Ind.)	125,000.00	-
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ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	Please call	-
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PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
PUNTA FUEGO	650,000.00	-
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2. ALABANG "B"	1,600,000	------	—
3. BAGUIO CC	750,000	675,000	June 95
4. CALATAGAN GC "A"	90,000	------	May 93
5. CALATAGAN GC "B"	------	95,000	—
6. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000	—
7. CANLUBANG GC	520,000	------	Oct 90
8. CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	------	July 91
9. CC AT TAGAYTAY	390,000	------	<Pre-sell
10. CELEBRITY CLUB	------	180,000	—
11. FONTANA "C"	------	CALL NOW	—
12. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000	11,000,000	—
13. MANILA POLO CLUB	CALL NOW	2,600,000	March 95
14. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	640,000	550,000	<Pre-sell
15. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	------	—
16. ORCHARD GCC "A"	CALL NOW	------	<Pre-sell
17. PUNTA FUEGO	CALL NOW	------	—
18. RIVIERA GCC "A"	CALL NOW	------	<Pre-sell
19. STA. ELENA "A"	1,620,000	------	April 94
20. STA. ELENA "B"	------	1,850,000	—
21. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	------	800,000	—
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000	------	—
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	------	—
24. VALLE VERDE	------	CALL NOW	—
25. VALLEY GOLF	------	290,000	—

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ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA CC "A"	15,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,650,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	90,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	-	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	210,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	225,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	280,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)		140,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,625,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,900,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	280,000	-
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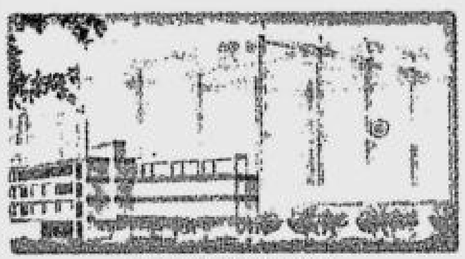

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NSC creditors want cap on Danaharta veto power

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CREDITOR-BANKS of National Steel Corp. have proposed to limit Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd.'s veto power on the sale of the shuttered steel firm's assets to between three and five years.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that after the "lockout period," the creditor-banks could sell NSC's assets without the consent of Danaharta, which would retain the right to match any offer for the steel company that would fall below 80 percent of its assessed value.

Roxas said that while the banks were willing to appease Danaharta by giving it veto power in exchange for the reduction of its holdings in NSC under the debt-restructuring program, they wanted this privilege confined to a limited period to give them a chance to find a buyer for the assets.

Roxas said Danaharta could still prevent a "fire sale" being done on the NSC assets after the lockout period because it would be allowed to buy the same assets if these would be sold for less than 80 percent of their appraised value. Roxas said the banks' proposal was meant to clear the air of mistrust between the two parties.

Based on the ongoing negotiations for the debt-restructuring agreement, the banks and Danaharta have agreed that all major board decisions should be approved with a "super majority vote" (or 85 percent of the shareholders) instead of a simple majority (or 51 percent or more).

The restructuring program involves the conversion of the banks' P8 billion worth of loans to an 80-percent equity in NSC and a write-off of some P6 billion or nearly 40 percent of NSC's obligations. Danaharta's stake will be reduced from 82 percent to 15 to 17 percent while NSC will be left with debts of P2 billion (from P16 billion.)

The issue of veto power is one of four items that Danaharta wanted to address before giving its stamp of approval on the restructuring program. Roxas said the other three items have already been resolved—the banks would take care of naming the CEO and COO; Danaharta would maintain at least two seats on the board, and interest charges would only begin to fall due once the special vehicle for the restructuring starts operations.

Roxas said that once Danaharta gives the thumbs up to the bank's proposed limits to the veto power, the two parties would finally implement a memorandum of agreement that should pave the way for the reopening of NSC's Iligan plant.

The factory was closed in November 1999 because of mounting debt burden and losses arising from stiff competition from cheap steel imports from Russia. Danaharta is Malaysia's debt-rehabilitation agency which took over Renong Berhad's assets a few years ago. Renong owned the majority stake in NSC through Wing Tiek Holdings.

NSC's creditor-banks include Philippine National Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank Philippines, Global Banking Corp., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Equitable PCIBank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Traders Royal Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank and Urban Bank.

SEC giving up pre-need sector supervision

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is willing to give up its supervision function over the pre-need industry to the Department of Trade and Industry in line with the latter's effort to improve consumer welfare protection.

In a recent interview, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II recently said he wanted to unify and rationalize the functions related to consumer welfare, including being able to act on complaints on the selling of pre-need plans.

"We read that the DTI wants to consolidate consumer protection. The SEC is more than willing to transfer pre-need to them," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said in a press briefing. "We're all for it."

Bautista has indicated that the pre-need industry was difficult to regulate. The SEC had already offered to hand over the supervision of the industry to the Insurance Commission.

SEC associate commissioner Juanita Cueto, who was also present in the briefing, pointed out that the DTI has more provincial offices that could look into the operations of pre-need companies.

The DTI has been receiving complaints about pre-need companies, particularly on the failure of some of them to meet their contractual obligations.

In a position paper on a proposed legislation on the pre-need industry, the DTI stressed the need to monitor or regulate the solvency of pre-need companies.

The DTI noted that a significant number of pre-need companies had failed to the detriment of thousands of plan holders.

Congress is currently deliberating on a proposed pre-need insurance industry code that seeks to strengthen regulations governing the pre-need industry. Most of the pending bills for the pre-need code tasked the Insurance Commission to supervise the industry.

In the meantime, Roxas said that DTI has been making headway in the integration of consumer protection measures that were presently undertaken by several agencies of government.

He cited the memorandum of agreement signed between the SEC and the DTI. The agreement clearly defined the two agencies' roles and functions in acting on pyramiding complaints.

They also agreed to jointly investigate select companies or cases.

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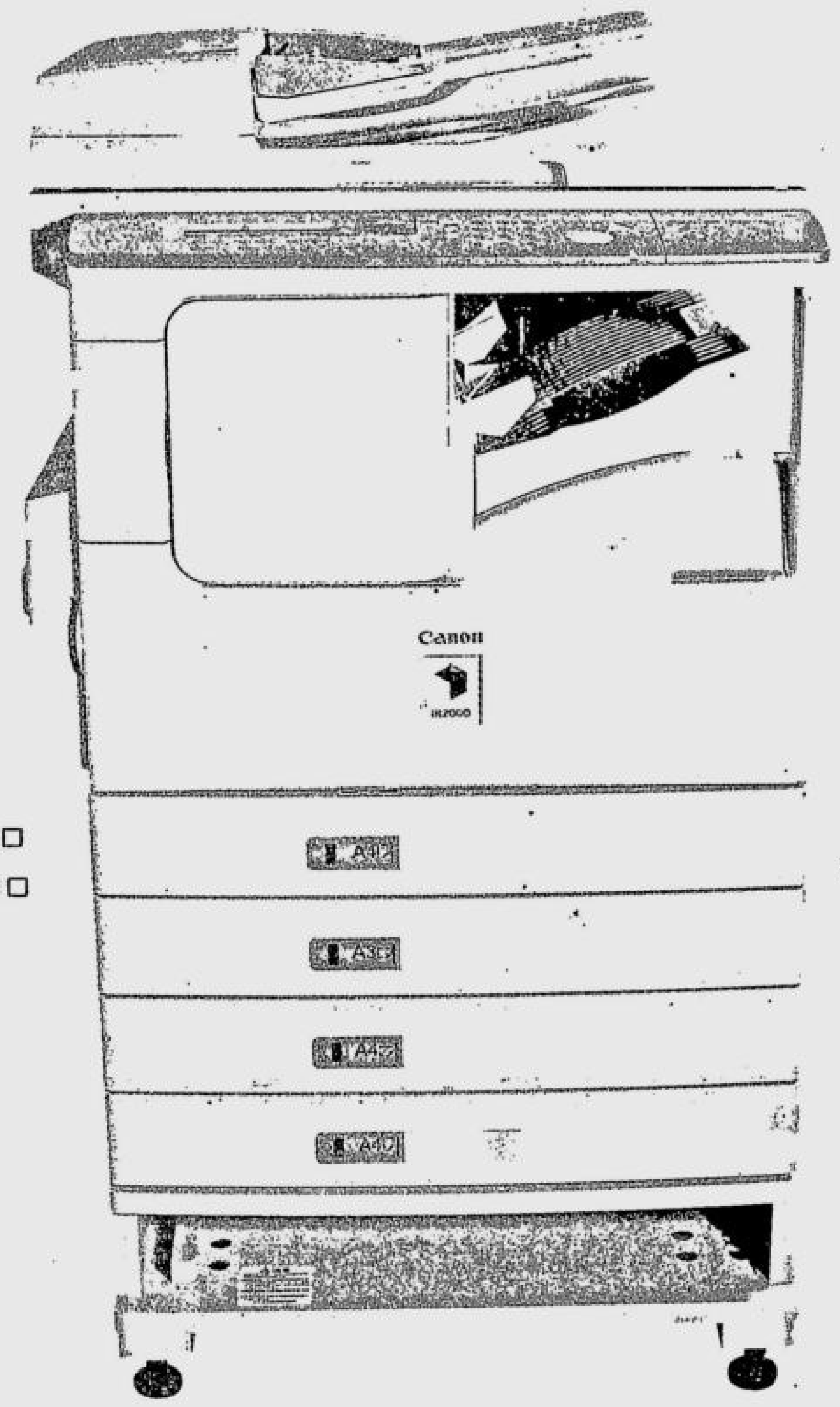

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OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Banks' auto loans up 28% in Q2

By Clarissa S. Batino

AUTO loans extended by banks surged by almost 28 percent in the second quarter to P39 billion, from P30.5 billion in the same period last year, indicating an improving consumer spending in the country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that the total exposure of commercial and thrift lenders to car loans went up by 19.4 percent from P32.7 billion as of end-March 2002.

"This is a good indication because it means that consumer demand is growing and this is helping our economy grow," said Reyes.

Also, the past due portion of the auto loans slightly improved to 6.1 percent of the total as of end-June from the previous year's 6.3 percent, but worsened from the first quarter's 5.4 percent.

Of the total car loans, savings banks accounted for 76.3 percent while 23.7 percent came from commercial banks, Reyes noted.

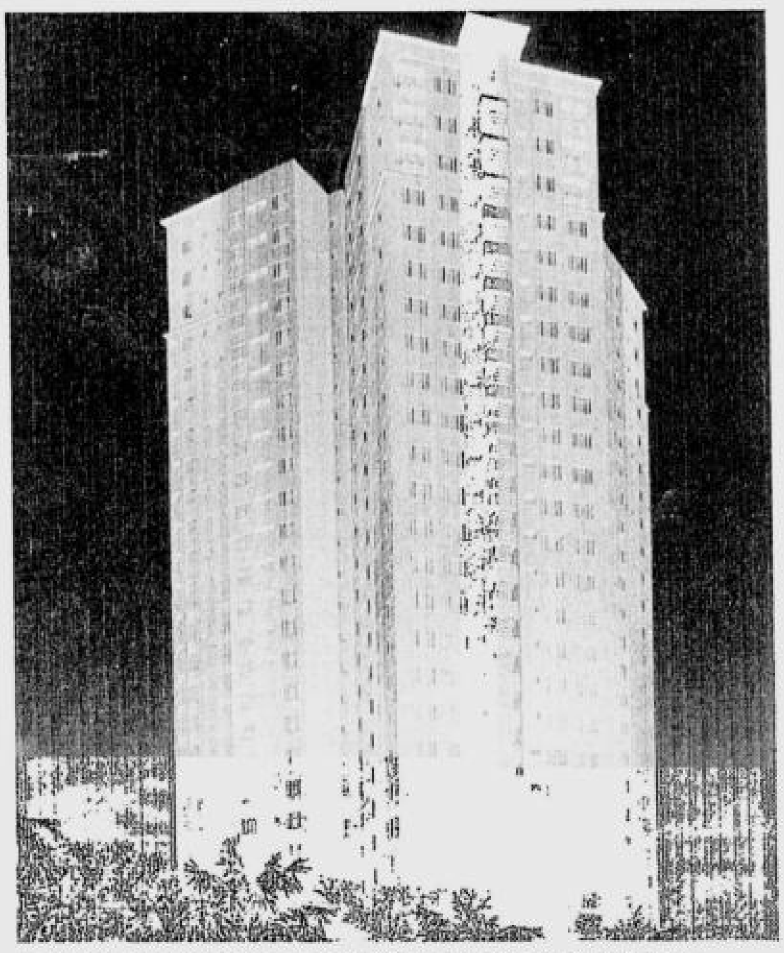
BPI Family Bank, the thrift bank of Bank of the Philippine Islands, accounted for 37 percent of the total or P14.5 billion.

BPI Family Bank is the more aggressive among its peers in the area of consumer financing, particularly housing and auto loans. An increasing number of banks are becoming more active in providing housing loan, giving rise to a price war in this sector among lenders.

Normally, auto loans account for less than one percent of the loan portfolio of commercial banks but make up more than 17 percent of the thrift lenders' total exposure.

A bank source said that an increasing portion of the auto loans extended by banks was spent in the acquisition of second-hand cars, including those repossessed by banks. The bulk, however, was still used in buying brand-new units as reflected in the increasing sales of the automotive assembly sector.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that automotive sales hit 53,927 units from January to August this year from 50,324 units in the same period last year. August sales of 7,792 units were 9.8 percent better than the previous month's sales 7,095 and 0.9 percent higher than the 7,720 registered during the same month last year.



GOKONGWEI'S P2.5-B DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
An artist's perspective of Gateway Residences, Robinsons Land Corp.'s (RLC) latest property development project. Located at the corner of Pioneer Street and Edsa, the mixed use development will feature a mall, residential and office condominiums.

MRT-7 project awaits DOTC OK

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNIVERSAL LRT Corp., the consortium that offered to undertake a $1.2 billion mass railway transit system linking Marilao, Bulacan to Edsa-Quezon Avenue, called MRT-7, is hoping to break ground before the current term of the Macapagal administration expires in 2004.

In an interview last week, consortium chair Roberto de Ocampo, former finance secretary and currently president of the Asian Institute of Management, said: "We're still awaiting the final go-ahead of the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communication), which we think will happen because it (the project) is necessary in decongesting Metro Manila traffic.

"The line that the DOTC was considering earlier has already been overtaken by demographics and events. This is the third attempt to build what you call the inter-modal transport system," he said.

The MRT-7 build-operate-transfer project was submitted as an unsolicited proposal to the DOTC but its route does not jibe with an earlier planned route for another MRT line.

"If this proposal gets approved, we can start completing the financial package and present the plan to the ICC (Investment Coordination Committee). The entire project may take up to three years," he said.

The inter-agency ICC, which is spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority, screens development projects for official development assistance (ODA) funding.

"What makes it attractive is its inter-modal feature because it will help solve the traffic problems and it will also ensure that the critical mass of passengers will be there," he said.

The former finance chief said that when the MRT-3 route along Edsa was opened, the proponents had panicked when the line initially failed to attract enough volume of passengers forcing them to scale down its rates.

"One of these days, it (political pricing) is going to haunt us," he said.

In the case of the MRT-7 project, the main proponent is Manila-based development group EL International Holdings, which is part of the EL Group of Companies of Hong Kong which has teamed up with local groups EEI Corp. of the Yuchengco family and TCGI Engineers.

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Business, NGOs to launch protest actions vs SM Clark

ANGELES CITY—Businessmen and members of non-government organizations vowed to initiate protest actions against the proposed establishment of a P500-million SM Super Mall just inside the main gate of Clark Special Economic Zone.

In a meeting here, officials of the anti-SM Clark groups said they would continue to oppose the proposed mall within the 16-hectare area beside the Filipino-American cemetery in Barangay Balibago here.

The groups include the Clark Investors and Locators Association, Angeles City Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Angeles City Association of Supermarket Owners, Angeles City Public Market Traders Association, Dau Traders Association and the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement.

Government officials like Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, city councilors, Pampanga Reps. Francis Nepomuceno and Oscar Rodriguez, and Renato Romero, vice chair of the North Philippines Business Council, voiced similar opposition to the SM Clark project.

The anti-SM Clark groups and officials said the operation of a giant mall just inside the main gate of the special economic zone would result in the natural death of local retailers here and nearby Mabalacat town.

They wanted the mall project to be transferred near the mothballed Expo Pilipino along the Clark commercial area where the duty-free shops were located.

In a press forum, Emmanuel Angeles, Clark Development Corp. president, said business tycoon Henry Sy's SM Prime Holdings was firm in its stand to locate the mall along Clark's main gate. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Floor price for coffee sought

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Coffee farmers of Cavite province have expressed alarm over the continued importation of coffee products from other countries, which they claim is gradually killing the local coffee industry.

The farmers, led by the Kalipunan ng Magbubukid sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-Ka), urged the government to provide subsidy and support to the farmers to uplift the country's coffee industry instead of relying on importation.

To air their plight, around 100 of them picketed last Thursday the Black and White Coffee Festival being held at the Greenbelt 3 lobby in line with the national coffee week celebration sponsored by the National Coffee Board with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo as the main guest. The weeklong celebration runs until Oct. 15.

The farmers presented their petition to the International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The farmers are seeking increases in the prices of their produce to P700 per bucket or P135 per kilogram of powdered coffee and to P103 per kilogram of coffee seeds.

The farmers are also seeking the following: nationalization of coffee production, manufacturing and trading; repeal of Republic Act No. 8178; implementation of a coffee floor price set of P500 per bucket (dried coffee) and P75 per kilogram (coffee seed); provision of input subsidy and a decrease in pesticide prices from P450 per kilo of urea to P225 per kilo and from P300 per kilo of ammosul to P150 per kilo.

According to the farmers, since the accession of the Philippines to the 1994 General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs of the World Trade Organization (1994 GATT-WTO), the growth of the local coffee industry has been on a downtrend.

Local farmers suffer from the steep drop of coffee prices as cheap imports flood the market. From a high of P700 per bucket of coffee in 1987, farmers are now getting only P80 to P115 per bucket of their produce, latest statistics showed.

The country used to be a net exporter of coffee in the 1970s until the early 1990s.

Coffee exports started to decline when the country began importing coffee in 1997 up to the present in fulfillment of the country's commitment to the 1994 GATT-WTO.

Around 300,000 farmers in the country earn their living from coffee farming.

Coffee is considered a high value commodity, earning for the country an average annual income of P2 billion.

A total of 164,139 hectares of agricultural land were devoted to coffee production in the country in 2001.

Thirty percent of the national coffee production comes from Cavite. The province ranks fifth in the national aggregate production of coffee. *Romulo O. Ponte and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

BSP seen easing rules on credit card issuers

By Clarissa S. Batino

IN yet another compromise, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is considering relaxing its rules on the computation of bad loans of banks offering credit cards.

In an interview, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said monetary authorities were reviewing the central bank's treatment of past due accounts of banks offering credit cards to "align this policy with international best practices" and make it kinder to banks.

Last month, the central bank said it might take out about P45 billion in "written-off" accounts from the bad loan portfolios of banks. This plan was met with resistance from international ratings agency Standard & Poor's, which warned that the looser policy would be against prudent practices.

However, the trade-off, Reyes said, was for banks to eventually reduce their charges to customers, which the central bank would push in its next quarterly meetings with credit card companies.

The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, in a meeting with central bank officials last month, requested for a review of the policy. The group has disputed the central bank's computation and claimed that, in other countries, a credit card loan only becomes past due if it is unpaid on the 31st day after due date.

The central bank treats a credit card account as past due if it has remained unpaid a day after due date.

Reyes said should the BSP, based on its ongoing review of the policy, find reason to relax the computation of soured credit card accounts, then the industry's past due level could go down to below 20 percent or even 10 percent.

The CCAP has computed the past due level as of the first quarter to be only 8 percent versus the central bank's computation of about 24 percent of total receivables worth P47.093 billion.

"In our meeting, the group agreed to tighten their credit evaluation and monitoring as the BSP had ordered. They agreed that the basis of the evaluation is the cash flow and the ability to pay. Some may even require a co-maker or a guarantor," Reyes told reporters.

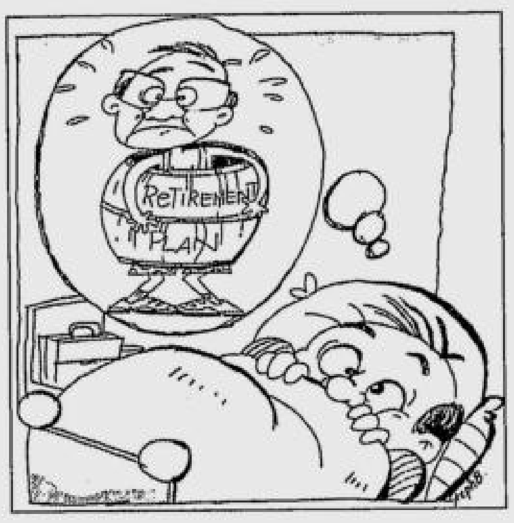
He said in their September meeting, the CCAP and BSP agreed to meet regularly every quarter.

"In the quarterly dialogue with them, we will stress on the need to tighten the credit criteria with the view of reducing service charges to customers. We are reviewing the credit card charges being imposed in other countries," Reyes said.

Credit card providers have been criticized for their prohibitive rates.

The central bank suspects that credit card firms charge losses from bad customers to those paying their debts on time, penalizing good customers with rates reaching about 40 percent annually, or 3.5 percent a month.

This scenario, said Reyes, has largely resulted from the aggressive marketing of many credit card firms where even those incapable of responsibly settling their accounts are given credit cards.



SEC issues cease order vs. 4 Multitel subsidiaries

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has issued a cease-and-desist order against four corporations and cooperatives that are connected with the ownership, management or operation of pseudo-investment firm Mutinational Telecommunications Investors Corp.

The commission already has a standing cease-and-desist order against Multitel.

In an order served on Friday, the SEC directed Multitel International Holdings Inc. (MIHI), including its officers, directors, agents, representatives, conduits and assigns, to stop accepting investments from the public.

In the same order, the commission also "permanently enjoined, under pain of contempt," Oneheart Multipurpose Cooperate, the Everflow Group of Companies and Star Enterprise Multi-Purpose Cooperative from offering, soliciting, accepting or facilitating the acceptance of investments from the public.

The SEC said its order against Multitel last January covered these three groups.

"MIHI, Everlow, Oneheart and Star have interlocking incorporators or cooperators, stockholders or members, directors and officers who are inextricably connected in one way or another to the ownership, management or operation of Multitel," the SEC said.

The articles of incorporation of MIHI revealed that 99.99 percent of its subscribed capital stock was held by spouses Saturnino and Rosario Baldjay, also the controlling stockholders of Multitel.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters the commission would soon file criminal charges against those involved in the operations of Multitel, MIHI and other conduits for violating the country's securities laws.

Apart from the cease-and-desist order in force against it, Multitel also faces proceedings before the SEC for the revocation of its license for the sale of unregistered securities to the public by offering inordinately high interest rate returns on money placement.

The SEC said after the cease-and-desist order was issued against Multitel early this year, the commission had received persistent reports that Multitel continued to offer and solicit investments from the public and to accept deposits and investment placement, albeit under another name, MIHI.

"The reports further indicated that most of Multitel's placements and accounts were transferred to MIHI," the SEC said.

Retirement: Most awaited or dreaded?

THE IDEA of retirement conjures images of either bliss or fear. For those who have set up a retirement plan, it is the most highly anticipated moment when they can enjoy the fruits of their working life and finally enjoy the things they have always wanted to do: travel, play golf, get into a business or a hobby, or buy a farm.

Unfortunately, there are many who are ill-prepared for retirement. At a time when a person is unable to work for his needs, a retirement plan is his safety net. The key to making this possible is to have enough cash stashed away to finance these activities. Usually, it is made possible through a good personal savings plan or an excellent retirement benefit program offered by one's employer.

Mandated by law

For employers, setting up a retirement plan is a major responsibility. Republic Act No. 7641 mandates employers to provide a retirement plan for their employees. The minimum retirement benefit required is equivalent to 75 percent of a final monthly salary for every year of service given to retirees aged 60 or more but not beyond 65 and who have rendered at least five years of continuous service.

Employees are given the flexibility to choose from different types of retirement funds. One is funded by a fixed percentage from an employee's salary ranging from 5 to 10 percent of his monthly salary. His retirement benefit will be equal to the total amount of his net contributions plus interest earnings.

The second is based on defined benefit that may further be classified into three types. Flat benefit is dependent on compensation only and not years of service (for example, 75 percent of a final salary). Fixed benefit is not dependent on compensation and years of service and could be just a fixed amount, for instance, P100,000. Unit benefit per year of service is dependent on a certain amount or percentage of one's salary for every year of service, usually 75 or 100 percent of one's salary for every year of service.

New offering

One such flexible retirement plan that offers excellent benefit package to employees is the "Comprehensive Group Plan as a Retirement Funding Instrument" offered by The Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd.

Insular Life's Comprehensive Group Plan provides retirement, as well as insurance and hospitalization, benefits. Under this group insurance plan, employees will not only receive retirement or separation benefits but they will also be insured against natural death, accidental death and disability, total and permanent disability. This is possible because the plan was designed to allow the build up of cash value via a side fund.

Companies that have availed themselves of the Comprehensive Group Plan are able to give all these benefits because the accumulated cash values provide an investment alternative or savings for the future cost of the employees' insurance. It allows companies to fund employee benefit programs such as life insurance and retirement benefits under one fund administrator. Premium rates are customized depending on the average age, size, nature of the group and other factors.

Another package is the "Trusteed Plan Package," which allows the company to provide its employees both insurance, retirement and separation benefits. This plan, however, will be managed by Insular Life and Insular Investment and Trust Corp. Similarly, employees or insured participants will have the option to convert their insurance to an individual coverage if they decide to leave the company.

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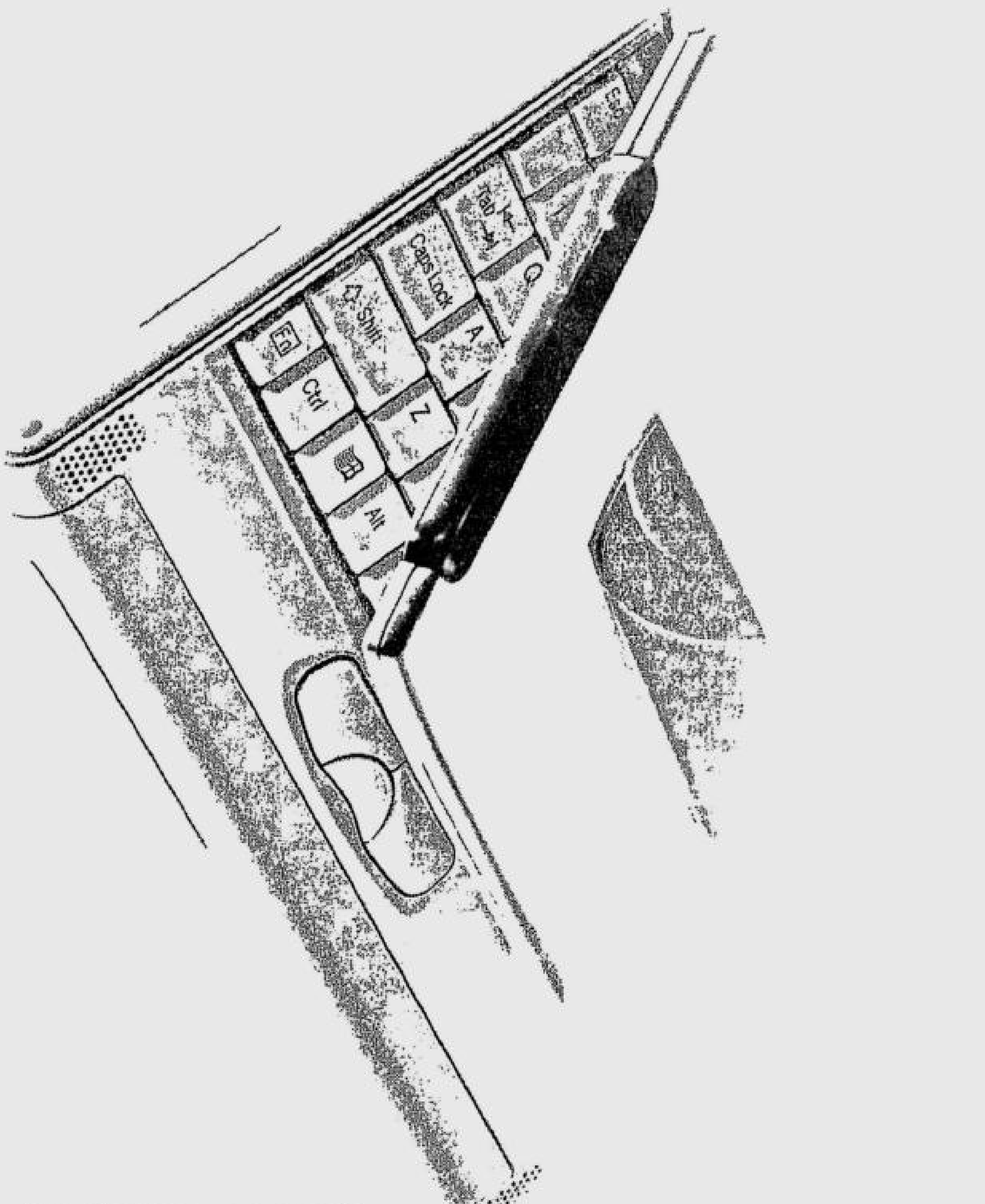

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Global gloom deepens on US payrolls drop

NEW YORK—Gloom over the global outlook deepened on Friday after the massive US economy suffered its first job losses in five months and Europe's service sector shrank in September.

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development also reported the world's largest economies lost steam in late summer, with leading indicators for the United States, Germany, Britain and France all turning downward in August.

The shaky growth prospects sent stock markets lower around the world and heightened expectations that some central banks—especially the European Central Bank—may need to cut interest rates again to stave off recession before year's end.

"From Asia, to Europe, to the United States and to Latin America, the world economy seems to have lost any semblance of upward momentum," said Stephen Roach, chief economist at Morgan Stanley, during a Friday note to clients.

US payrolls shrank in September by 43,000, in contrast to the 5,000 gain private economists had predicted, the labor department said on Friday, raising fears faltering US demand in months ahead could drag on lackluster world growth.

A sudden fall in the jobless rate to 5.6 percent from 5.7 percent in August surprised market participants, but left many doubting it would last. Merrill Lynch said it still expects the jobless rate to top 6 percent soon before recovering.

"The third quarter ended with a thud," declared Carol Stone, an economist at Nomura Securities International, after the US employment data were released.

Stocks plummeted, with the Standard & Poor's 500 index down 3 percent, to below its multiyear closing low struck in July.

But the labor report offered pockets of good news. The 39,000 gain in August payrolls was revised sharply upward to 107,000, and average hourly earnings and total hours worked rose in September. That could bode well for spending, provided the carnage in equity markets and concerns over a US war on Iraq do not further erode confidence, analysts said.

The mixed jobs data scaled back bets in the market that the Federal Reserve will cut its short-term lending rate, now at 1.75 percent before its Nov. 6 meeting. That initially hurt Treasuries before they recovered. But bets are still on for a Fed rate cut by year's end.

Adding to US uncertainty was a labor dispute that has shut down key West Coast ports for almost a week. US Labor Secretary Elaine Chao warned a prolonged standoff could hurt parts of the economy.

"We continue to be very concerned about the situation on the West Coast," she said.

Roughly $300 billion in trade flows through the ports each year, accounting for about one-sixth of total goods trade, analysts at Lehman Brothers said. A prolonged strike may hurt holiday retail sales, a key driver of the US economy.

In Europe, meanwhile, the Reuters service industry survey for September added to the evidence both that growth is dwindling and that Germany is on the edge of recession.

The euro zone business activity index fell to 49.1, below the 50 level which separates growth from contraction, from 50.8 in August. The German figure dropped further into contractionary territory, to 44.6 in September from 47.7.

The euro zone services survey, while far bleaker than a similar US survey released Thursday that showed modest strength, followed a parallel euro zone factory survey earlier this week which also showed a dip below 50.

"We have been looking at the risks of a recession in the euro zone and this confirms our fear that the chances are higher than a renewed recession in the US," said Menno Middeldorp at Rabobank in Utrecht.

The data may put additional pressure on the European Central Bank, which has held rates steady at 3.25 percent for a year, to cut borrowing costs again, analysts said.

The Paris-based OECD confirmed the turn for the worse in economic prospects with its August leading indicator, which said the world's largest economies lost steam in late summer.

The OECD's indicator for the United States slid for the second month in a row, by 0.5 points to 118.3. It was down by 0.3 points to 113.1 for the euro zone, with heavy falls for Germany and France, the largest of the bloc's 12 countries.

Britain and Canada also dipped.

The only Group of Seven countries to post small rises were Italy and Japan. But Japanese growth has stagnated for a decade, and prospects for any rebound there are slim until it has cleaned up its debt-laden banking system.

Growth prospects for the rest of Asia are dimmed by shrinking demand from developed G7 countries.

In Latin America, meanwhile, Argentina has slid into a dire recession and Brazil's outlook is clouded by presidential elections this weekend where a leftist candidate, feared by financial markets uncertain over his economic policies, is poised to declare victory. *Reuters*

Air freight rates surge with ports lockout

LOS ANGELES—Air cargo rates have risen sharply in the past five days, as the lockout of West Coast ports coincides with the seasonal increase in shipments, placing a premium on available capacity.

"People are looking for capacity at the busiest time of the year," said Rachel Berry, a spokesperson for Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings Inc. New York-based Atlas expects on Saturday to load five out of its 51 Boeing 747s with Japanese auto parts, cargo that would have been shipped by sea if not for the closure of 29 West Coast ports.

Carriers say prices have climbed by as much as 30 percent since Sunday, although rates vary depending on the type of cargo being shipped and where it is headed.

Sending a 40-foot (12-meter) container from Asia to West Coast ports by ship typically costs between $1,500 and $3,500, said Reg Kenney, vice president of marketing and sales for North America for Danzas AEI Intercontinental, which coordinates and manages the worldwide movement of cargo.

Shipping an equal amount of cargo by plane can be as much as 10 times the price. While a single ship can tote upward of 1,000 40-foot (12-meter) containers, a typical Boeing 747 can carry just 30 pallets, each of which is smaller than a container.

But that hasn't stopped the American Honda Motor Co. Inc., which started flying critical Japanese parts to Ohio on Thursday to prevent a slowdown in production of its North American-built cars and light trucks, spokesperson Jeffrey Smith said.

Other companies are scrambling to make contingency plans as the port shutdown drags on.

The New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. factory near San Jose, California, which assembles General Motors and Toyota cars and trucks, said it also would start flying in Asian-made parts.

And United Airlines, a leading trans-Pacific freight carrier, said that Thursday was its best cargo day since Sept. 11, 2001. Roger Gibson, United's vice president of cargo, said the high volume— 7.4 million cargo ton miles—was attributable in part to the West Coast ports lockout.

Northwest Airlines Cargo has begun adding flights on its Pacific routes, but the overall increase in volume is expected to be slight, spokesperson Kurt Ebenhoch said.

Danzas AEI Intercontinental said it too has experienced higher demand for air freight to North America at its Asian offices.

Analysts said flying most stranded cargo across the Pacific Ocean is an unreasonably expensive alternative. The only exceptions are perishables, electronics and other high-value products, analysts said.

There is another reason that increased air shipments are unlikely to make a major dent in the global pileup of freight. "There is a fixed amount of aircraft," said Dan Moyer, an analyst with Air Cargo Management Group, a Seattle consulting firm. *AP*

PORT OF LONG BEACH
FIGHT TERRORISM NOT

A DOCK worker with a sign that reads "Fight Terrorism Not American Workers" pickets with other members belonging to the Longshoremen and Dock Workers Union at Long Beach Harbor as the lock-out of dock workers continues into its fourth day. Some 29 major US ports are affected by the labor standoff that is costing the US economy about $1 billion a day. AFP

Progress seen in talks to end port strike

SAN FRANCISCO—Negotiators seeking to end an economically crippling lockout of US West Coast ports worked into the night on Friday, with both sides reporting progress as they agreed to resume cargo shipments to Alaska.

"We are making slow progress and the two sides are moving closer," said Joe Miniace, president and chief executive officer of the Pacific Maritime Association representing 29 West Coast ports in a high-stakes dispute centering on the role of new technology on US docks.

The lockout, now in its sixth consecutive day, has sparked calls on the Bush Administration to step in to get ports moving again as the crunch hit the faltering US economy and economic fears rippled across the Pacific to Asia.

In a small sign of progress, the PMA agreed Friday to allow union longshoremen to load Alaska-bound cargo after a request from the state's governor, Tony Knowles.

Miniace said port managers decided to make the exception to the lockout they ordered Sunday after receiving assurances from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union that it would not stage work slowdowns.

ILWU President James Spinosa, calling the Alaska decision "a step in the right direction," said the union was not officially extending its contract but would work according to contract guidelines, which ban work slowdowns.

The Alaska decision marks the first crack in the PMA's lockout of ports ranging from San Diego to Seattle, which was ordered Sunday after port operators accused the union of illegal slowdowns.

The deal did not cover shipments to Hawaii, which like Alaska, has been growing desperate for imported goods as the lockout continues. The union later repeated a request that it be allowed to load Hawaii-bound ships. *Reuters*

Battered gear makers seen facing new slump

SAN FRANCISCO—For the past year as the telecommunications industry imploded, desperate network equipment suppliers, including Cisco Systems Inc. and its rivals, have leaned more heavily on bricks-and-mortar companies in other industries to make sales.

Those sales have become more important during the slump.

But now they are threatened, analysts caution, with corporate confidence under pressure and new signs that investment on information technology is being ratcheted lower.

In recent weeks telecom gear suppliers Alcatel CGEP.PA ALA.N, Lucent Technologies Inc., Nortel Networks Corp. NT.N NT.TO, JDS Uniphase Corp., Ciena Corp., Tellabs Inc. and Redback Networks Inc. have warned of weaker demand.

Industry leader Cisco gets about 80 percent of its revenues from such "enterprise" customers, up from about 65 percent to 70 percent in 2000 when the telecom spending boom was still on, Pacific Growth Equities analyst Erik Suppiger said.

"People are more cautious than they were three or four months ago," Ryan Molloy, an analyst with SoundView Technology Group told Reuters. "Spending will definitely be at a challenging level in the near term."

Analysts earlier this year had been hopeful that business demand, while down significantly from the tech boom, would settle into a stable range as companies found their footing and raised capital investments in a creeping economic rebound.

That has not happened and now corporations are expected to cut investment in gear for managing online traffic, investments touted for their ability to boost productivity and expand electronic commerce.

"Our channel checks have supported our thesis that enterprise customers are tightening their spending budgets, eliminating purchases, deferring buying decisions and downsizing deal sizes," a recent Salomon Smith Barney research note said.

"We believe weakening conditions in September will likely set the tone for tight spending conditions through the end of 2002," the Salomon analysts wrote.

Extreme Networks Inc. on Monday warned of just that kind of slowdown, saying it expected to post a loss in its fiscal first quarter ending Sept. 29, not the profit Wall Street had expected, as customers delayed orders.

"We believe this is due to concerns about the economy," Extreme chief executive Gordon Stitt told analysts.

Analysts had looked to Extreme as a kind of leading indicator for Cisco, the No. 1 maker of equipment that manages online traffic and whose market 'share dwarfs would-be rivals.

Cisco's market capitalization has plunged to about $74 billion from around $555 billion in late March 2000, when its shares traded at a record high $82. Cisco closed on Friday at $9.46, down 36 cents, or 3.7 percent on the day.

"Overall, end users are very weary about the economic environment and seem very hesitant to spend at this point," Bear, Stearns analysts wrote in a research note this week. *Reuters*

US retailers brace for rocky holiday

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers, coming off a disappointing September, are bracing for rocky times as they head into the all-important holiday season.

The prospect of war in Iraq, a volatile stock market and a weak job market weigh heavy on the industry. Add to that the shutdown of West Coast ports, which threatens to delay delivery of holiday goods.

"The risk levels have escalated on a number of fronts," said Michael Niemira, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.

Niemira expects that sales at stores open at least a year, considered the best indicator of a retailer's health, for the combined November and December period will be up at best 3 percent. That's modest in comparison to the robust holiday seasons of the late 1990s, when same-store sales were up 5 percent to 6 percent, but above last year's showing.

Nearly one-quarter of retailers' annual sales come in that two-month window.

But early indicators aren't always accurate: A surge of last-minute shopping last year helped save many merchants from a disastrous holiday sales performance. Holiday sales, which were hampered by last year's terrorist attacks, were up a better-than-expected 2.2 percent from the previous year.

What could put more pressure on both brick and mortar merchants and online retailers is that there are six fewer shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas than a year ago. Thanksgiving, celebrated on the last Thursday of November, falls on Nov. 28 this year.

That means that holiday shopping, which has increasingly become more last minute, will be even more concentrated in the last few days, keeping retailers on edge, analysts said.

While consumers, lured by such incentives as low interest rates and zero-percent financing, have helped prop up the economy by spending on cars and homes, they've reined in their spending at general merchandise stores, particularly clothing stores, since July.

The lackluster trend continued for the back-to-school selling season, the second most important period behind holiday. *AP*

Tokyo to outline anti-deflation package

TOKYO—Japan's government plans to reveal the outline of an anti-deflation package by Oct. 17, including tax cuts and employment measures, reports said Saturday.

The Financial Services Agency's task force on measures to accelerate banks' disposal of bad loans is also set to reveal an interim report by Oct. 17, Kyodo News agency and the Asahi newspaper said.

The comprehensive anti-deflation package is expected to include the framework of planned tax cuts and measures to maintain employment and help smaller companies, they said.

The Yomiuri newspaper said a rough sketch of the package would be drawn up at Friday's meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will likely stress his resolve to fight deflation and step up disposal of bad loans at banks by mentioning the new package when he delivers a speech on Oct. 18 at the opening of a parliament session, the Yomiuri said.

The council, chaired by Koizumi, will call for the enactment of a new law enabling the government to simplify the procedure for injecting public funds into banks, it said.

Japan's commercial banks are weighed down by bad loans amounting to 43.2 trillion yen ($353 billion), according to the government's estimate, although this figure has been criticized as too conservative by analysts.

The package is also expected to say the government will postpone a plan to end full protection on bank deposits for two years to the end of March 2005, it said.

The government has said it is considering delaying the plan from beyond next April, but a formal announcement is yet to be made. *AFP*

Economists split over Fed cut

NEW YORK—Wall Street firms are increasingly split over whether the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates again before Christmas, with more economists now citing worries about a lack of economic momentum.

A Reuters survey of Wall Street firms taken on Friday after the September employment report was released found economists are divided over whether the Fed will give another boost to the economy.

Ten of the 20 primary bond dealers surveyed say the economy needs more stimulus, in the form of another rate cut. But the other 10 still expect the recovery will stagger forward enough to keep the Fed on hold.

The September payrolls report was less gloomy than many in the market feared, which doused speculation that the Fed could lower borrowing costs even before its next meeting on Nov. 6.

But others believe the numbers will deteriorate from here.

The September payrolls report showed a drop of 43,000 jobs, but that news was more than offset by a hefty upward revision to August to show a solid gain of 107,000 jobs.

"There was a lot of fear going into this report that it could have been a lot worse," said ABN AMRO chief US economist Steve Ricchiutto.

"The important thing is the economy doesn't show any real signs of undue stress despite everything else that's going on.

There's not enough to get the Fed off the marker," he said.

But economists who were already expecting a rate cut were not swayed by the payrolls report. "We still think the Fed will cut," said Deutsche Bank chief US economist Peter Hooper.

The futures market fell after the payrolls report, reducing the odds on a rate cut before the next Fed meeting on Nov. 6 to close to zero. The December fed funds contract is still priced for a rate reduction by the end of the year. *Reuters*

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (center) looks up at stock price monitor displays in front of a huge screen of stock quotations. Koizumi on Friday shrugged off calls for extra spending in the fiscal year to next March, despite falling share prices and concerns about a weakening economy. REUTERS

Sellers likely to keep upper hand in Wall St.

NEW YORK—Investors are likely to become even better acquainted with the term "new multiyear low" in the upcoming week as the lows from the 1990s scraped recently are expected to be the starting point for further declines.

Sellers will keep the upper hand next week as the third-quarter reporting season begins in earnest and the markets wait for major economic reports on the September producer price index and retail sales.

A spate of dour earnings news from corporate giants shoved the Nasdaq to a 6-year low on Friday, while the Dow Jones industrial average slumped near a 5-year closing low. And analysts expect stocks to languish at depressed levels in the near term as the earnings reporting season is seen bringing more dreary results and outlooks.

"We know that this (third) quarter's blown," said Martin Yokosawa, portfolio manager with Oberweis Asset Management, which oversees $200 million. "We're very interested in management's forward comments. Is the visibility going to improve?"

The jittery stock market will also be faced with President Bush's nationally televised speech on Iraq set for Monday night and the impact of the West Coast ports labor dispute.

Prolonging guesswork for the market, the major economic reports will not arrive until Friday.

"There's way too much uncertainty to propel the market up and way too much uncertainty to say the market won't tumble from here," said John Forelli, senior vice president and portfolio manager of Independence Investments LLC, in a weekly comment.

Stocks closed out a dismal third quarter on Monday, but the tide changed as shares jumped in trading on the first day of the fourth quarter Tuesday. Then stocks quickly reversed, as all major indexes closed lower for the sixth straight week. *Reuters*

Market watchdogs plan links to beat scandals

BUDAPEST—Financial market watchdogs plan to launch a global information sharing scheme next week aimed at preventing a repeat of the corporate failures that have rocked investor confidence this year.

The International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) said the first of its members would sign a memorandum of understanding to swap information among regulators at a committee meeting in Mexico next week.

Fernando Teixeira dos Santos, who heads the body's executive committee, told reporters during a meeting of European IOSCO members in Budapest, that the group was looking closely at all legal issues.

He said the most pressing task was to restore investor confidence in the quality of available financial market information, badly damaged by accounting scandals at the likes of US energy giant Enron Corp and WorldCom.

He said the key was that all parties should be able to assume that information is reliable.

The quality of information would require "reliable research, reliable and appropriate accounting standards and also that the auditing is made in a very professional way," he said.

Officials from IOSCO, which links 170 institutions worldwide, said the agency sought to establish global principles to prevent accounting scandals and other abuses in increasingly fast, diverse and globalised markets.

These would have to improve transparency of disclosure, conflict of interest and accounting standards and help fight market abuse through insider dealing and market manipulation. *Reuters*

J.P. Morgan set to fire 4,000 bankers report

NEW YORK—J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the second-largest US banking company, is set to fire 4,000 of its 20,000 investment bankers later this month, according to a published report.

The cuts will be made across the bank including its divisions handling mergers and acquisitions and equity and debt underwriting, a Bloomberg News article said on Friday.

A J.P. Morgan spokesperson declined to comment on the report. The company indicated last month, however, that it might have to cut jobs, as it wrestles with steep loan defaults by cable and telecommunications firms as well as wrong trading bets.

Last month, J.P. Morgan warned that its third-quarter earnings would be well below their second-quarter level due to weak trading results and bad loans to telecommunications and cable firms.

J.P. Morgan, along with other investment banks, has been stung by the slack economy and weak markets, after a boom in initial public offerings and mergers and acquisitions fueled bank expansion during the late 1990s.

In addition, J.P. Morgan has been tarred by financings it set up for bankrupt energy trader Enron Corp., as well as losses in Argentina. *Reuters*

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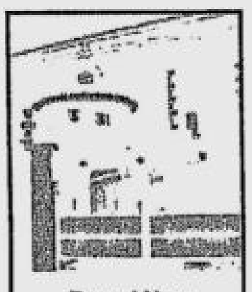

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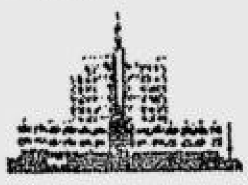

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

BANGKO SA LUPA NG PILIPINAS
Quezon Ave., Extn. Cor Raymund Jeffrey Rd., Pala-o, Iligan City
Tel. No.: (063) 221-3444, 492-1009, Fax No. (063) 516-727

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Land Bank of the Philippines, Iligan Branch, Iligan City** not later than **November 5, 2002**, Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
A 69,098 sq.m. agri/eco-tourism land (mountain resort) covered by 6 TCTs situated at Taytay, Ditucalan, Iligan City with the following improvements: 1-Main & Upper Clubhouse 2-Lower Clubhouse 5-Kulintang Cottages 4-Agus Bahay Buildings 2-Swimming Pools 1-Elevated Water Tank Detached Kitchen/Bodega 1&2/Servant's Quarter 2-Function Buildings within Hotel Village 2-Bahay Sarunay within Hotel Village 3-Row Houses Souvenir shop/Admin. Bldg./Info.Bldg.	P 40,740,000.00

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Head, Iligan Lending Center, Land Bank of the Philippines, Quezon Ave. Extn., Pala-o, Iligan City, Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS". The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

RENE Q. GALLO
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL HEAD
REGION 10

(PDI--Oct. 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

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A fast moving Multinational Consumer Company is looking for a competent DISTRIBUTOR-FORWARDER for its Cebu, Iloilo and Davao operations. Interested parties may send the following documents for initial screening:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Company Profile
3. Nature of Business
4. Principal/Customer Base
5. SEC Registration
6. Latest Audited Financial Statements

Send to: **Project Manager Code 8748, P.O. Box 2007, MCPO, Makati City 1206.** Deadline for submission is **October 11, 2002.** Selected providers will be invited to a briefing at the site from **October 18-25, 2002.**

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MARIO BATOBALONOS LAO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ARTHURO to MARIO in the birth certificate of ARTHURO LAO who was born on February 19, 1950 at Poblacion, Sta. Fe Cebu and whose parents are LADISLAO LAO and ILUMINADA BATOBALONOS.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 07 October 2002

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI--Oct. 1 & 7, 2002)

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THE 9TH LARGEST LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH ASSETS EXCEEDING Ps3 BILLION.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THREE MANAGERS FOR BICOL, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA, AND CEBU.

PROFILE: Female (Age 30 - 45)
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She is from Bicol, San Fernando or Cebu.

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PLEASE FAX YOUR RESUMÉ TO:

DOUGLAS McLAREN
NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Fax No. 810-0596

OR EMAIL at: macnlic@pacific.net.ph

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OFC STAFF 09164621729 RJAY

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OFCSTAF LUK DONA 09163832647

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE of loss is hereby given for S2 License No. 10941R02-0436 issued by DDB to Dr. Mary Jocelyn U. Ang.
(PDI-October 7. 2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN Fr. Home w/Travel Opportunities Call VEEKEE 900-5012 • 0916-4460975

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces)

Department of Education
THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT UNIT
5th Floor Bonifacio Bldg., DepEd Complex,
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply and Delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials (SRM) to Elementary Leader Schools (SRM) and Satellite Schools in the Philippines IFB No. PISU-CO/0222002, Loan No. PII-408

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of the Third Elementary Education Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials (SRM) to Elementary Leader Schools (SRM) and Satellite Schools in the Philippines (IFB No. PISU-CO/0222002).
2. The Department of Education (DepEd) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of Supplementary Reading Materials.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with international competitive bidding policies and procedures contained in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Ground Floor, 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, Tel. No. **636-6543** and **(+632) 632-1361** local **2019** and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, starting **October 1, 2002**.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Philippine Peso Two Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 2,500.00) or United States Dollar Fifty (USD 50.00). The method of payment will be in cash or cashier's check. The document will be sent through courier service for both local and overseas. Cost of courier service will be to the account of the bidder.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below (for bids to be submitted before the deadline of submission) or at the venue of the bid opening (for bids to be submitted on the day of bid opening). Deadline for submission of bids is at 10:00 a.m. on **November 12, 2002.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than Two Percent (2%) of the total bid price in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, at 10:00 a.m. on **November 12, 2002.**
7. A pre-bid conference will be conducted on **October 10, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Department of Education, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary

(PDI - Sept. 30. Oct. 2 & 7. 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID G6-2002-010

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
	DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 29, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1 16 PCS	COVER, FAN AND SEVEN (7) OTHER PARTS VENTILATION FAN AND OUTER FAN COVER OF COOLING TOWER FAN MOTOR	3MAK-02-0239
	DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 29, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A2 16 PCS	SLEEVE, HOT WELL PUMP, SUS 316 O.D.: 141.01 mm, I.D.: 125.00mm, 320mmL UPPER & MIDDLE SLEEVE AND FOUR (4) SIMILAR ITEMS	3MAK-02-0250
A3 1 LOT	SPARE PARTS FOR RECTIFIER/CHARGER MITSUBISHI REF.: 65000-5730, ORDER 07713/07715	3MAK-02-0415
	DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 30, 2002; 10:00 AM	
B1 525,000 KG	CAUSTIC SODA	3MAK-02-0524
B2 3 PCS	DIFFUSER, HD AND THREE OTHER ITEMS	3MAK-02-0276

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A1 - OCTOBER 18, 2002; 9:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2) A2 - OCTOBER 18, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
3) A3 - OCTOBER 18,2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting **October 2, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with ***"Executive Order 40"***.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPG-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman-BAC

(PDI - Sept. 29 & Oct. 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

Invitation to Bid

The Supreme Court invites authorized Distributors/Dealers of branded Personal Computers to pre-qualify and participate in the lot bidding for the following:

A.	615 Units	—	Branded personal computers
B.	483 Units	—	DoT Matrix printers
C.	101 Units	—	Laser printer
D.	615 Units	—	Automatic Voltage Regulator

For distribution and delivery to:

Court	PC	DoT MATRIX	LASER PRINTER	AVR
SC	226	94	101	226
RTC	46	46	0	46
MeTC	2	2	0	2
MTCC	58	58	0	58
MTC	131	131	0	131
MCTC	137	137	0	137
SHDC	5	5	0	5
SHCC	3	3	0	3
Court Libraries	7	7	0	7
TOTAL	615	483	101	615

The approved budget and funds appropriated for the purpose is **FORTY THREE MILLION PESOS (P43,000,000.00)** more or less.

Prospective bidders may secure pre-qualification requirements and bid documents including the lists of recipient Courts and their locations from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, 4th Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila, after payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00.)

I. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All pre-qualification requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the authorized representatives on October 11, 2002 at exactly 9:00 A.M at the 4th Floor Multi-purpose Building, Room No. 3.

II. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference for the pre-qualified bidders shall be on Monday, October 14, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at the 4th Floor Multi-Purpose Hall, Annex Building, SC.

III. OPENING OF BIDS

Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on Wednesday, October 30, 2002 at exactly 2:00 p.m., 4th Floor Multi-purpose Hall, Annex Building, SC.

Delivery must be done on or before December 31, 2002.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 27, 2002.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. PEREZ
Chairman
Committee on Bids
By: (Sgd.) FELIPA BORLONGAN-ANAMA
Vice-Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 29 & Oct. 7, 2002)

Philippine Tourism Authority
Manila

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY/APPLY for ELIGIBILITY and to bid

The **PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY** invites interested Contractors indigenous or based in CARAGA pre-qualify/apply for Eligibility and to bid for the construction of the following projects at the herein specified locations:

1. Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter
   - 1.1 San Jose, Surigao Del Norte
   - 1.2 2nd District, Surigao Del Norte
   - 1.3 1st District, Surigao Del Sur
   - 1.4 Infront of Bus Terminal, Bislig City
2. Viewdeck with Restrooms
   - 2.1 Municipality, Jabonga infront of Fishport, Agusan Del Norte

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Approved Budget (Total)	CATEGORY & CLASSIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS' LICENSE	ISSUANCE/ SUBMISSION OF PRE-C	ISSUANCE OF BID/TENDER DOCUMENTS	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION /OPENING OF BIDS
P2,300,000.00 527,652.00 P2,827,652.00	License Particular: Gen. Engineering Registration Particulars Building Small B	Oct. 15-17 2002 October 22, 2002	November 6-8, 2002	November 14, 2002 2:00 PM	November 21,2002 10:00 AM/ 2:00 PM

The estimated cost to construct either the Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter and Viewdeck with Restrooms is P575,000.00 and P527,652.00 respectively.

The **ITEMS OF WORK / SCOPE OF WORKS** includes furnishing of labor and materials in the construction of the above-mentioned projects.

Pre-qualification documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50.00 and presentation of a ***Letter of Intent*** and original copy of contractor's license at the BAC Secretariat Office located at Room 621 of the Department of Tourism Bldg., T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila with Telephone Numbers 524-28-70 or 525-30-20.

Bid document shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00

Submission of Bids shall be at the BAC Secretariat (Room 621), DOT Bldg. not later than the above-mentioned schedule.

The PTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ADEL L. ORIONDO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2002)

Philippine Tourism Authority
Manila

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY/APPLY for ELIGIBILITY and to BID

The **PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY** invites interested Contractors indigenous or based in ARMM pre-qualify/apply for Eligibility and to bid for the construction of the following projects at the herein specified locations:

1. Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter
   - 1.1 1st District, Lanao Del Sur
   - 1.2 1st District, Maguindanao
   - 1.3 2nd District, Maguindanao
   - 1.4 1st District, Sulu
   - 1.5 2nd District, Sulu
   - 1.6 Lone District, Tawi-tawi
2. Viewdeck with Restrooms
   - 2.1 2nd District, Lanao Del Sur

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Approved Budget (Total)	CATEGORY & CLASSIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS' LICENSE	ISSUANCE/ SUBMISSION OF PRE-C	ISSUANCE OF BID/TENDER DOCUMENTS	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS
P3,450,000.00 527,652.00 P3,977,652.00	License Particular: Gen. Engineering Registration Particulars: Building Medium A	Oct. 15-17, 2002 October 22, 2002	November 6-8, 2002	November 14, 2002 2:00 PM	November 22,2002 10:00 AM / 2:00 PM

The estimated cost to construct either the Restrooms with Tourist & Police Information Counter and Viewdeck with Restrooms is P575,000.00 and P527,652.00 respectively.

The **ITEMS OF WORK / SCOPE OF WORKS** includes furnishing of labor and materials in the construction of the above-mentioned projects.

Pre-qualification documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P50.00 and presentation of a ***Letter of Intent*** and original copy of contractor's license at the BAC Secretariat Office located at Room 621 of the Department of Tourism Bldg., T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila with Telephone Numbers 524-28-70 or 525-30-20.

Bid document shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders only upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.

Submission of Bids shall be at the BAC Secretariat (Room 621), DOT Bldg. not later than the above-mentioned schedule.

The PTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ADEL L. ORIONDO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 7, 2002)

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Our Dearly Beloved

DR. GREGORIO FLORO NORIEGA

(March 11, 1914-October 5, 2002)
of Meycauayan, Bulacan
Formerly with National Tuberculosis Chest Center

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 5, 2002
at the age of 88.

His loving wife, **CHOLENG**, children, **CESAR & BEBET, PRESCY & VIC CEMBRANO; ROLLY & AZON, NICK & TET; CHITO & EDELYN;** grandchildren, **JAYCEE, MAAN, MICMIC, LYN-LYN & ALVIN; IAN, PING & COCONG; PINGGOY, AQUEL & ACHEL; RINA, MAGGIE & JOEY;** sister, **PAQUITA;** relatives & friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **Faith, Arlington Memorial Chapels**, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 9, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the **Eternal Gardens Memorial Park**, Baesa Kalookan City.

CHUA LIAN YEK

(Joseph)

January 04, 1927 -- October 04, 2002

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 75.

He is survived by his loving wife **Kua Siong Ngo** and children **Evelyn, Jocelyn, Marilyn** and **Carolyn**. His remains lie in state at the Solace 2 Room, Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 10, 2002, 1:00 p.m., at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium, 143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya, Quezon City.

JULIO C. LOPEZ

of Sto. Rosario, Paombong, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 4, 2002 at the age of 70.

His bereaved children **Maria Julieta Lopez Bongga M.D. & Jonathan Bongga M.D., Ma. Victoria & Joselito Nuguid, Boying Lopez, Bernadito "Ying" & Lita Lopez, Ma. Jesusa & Rolando Allan Kapunan, Cristita "Bob" Lopez**, grandchildren, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his soul.

His body lies at the Lopez residence in Sto. Rosario, Paombong, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at the St. Gabriel Memorial Parish after the 3:00 pm Mass at the Santiago Apostol Parish Church.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

The Manila Jockey Club, Inc.

announce with deep sorrow
the passing away of

MANUEL ANTONIO "BALONG" SERRAVILLA AREVALO

Vice-President Marketing
Former NIA Administrator
Baron and Class Valedictorian of
PMA Class 1964

The Board of Directors, Management and employees condole with the bereaved family wife **Susan**; children **Manolo** and **Anette**, **Zorayda** and **Vicente**, **Arleen**, **Paulo**, **Suzanne** and **Jason**, **Carlo** and **Raffi**; grandchildren **Miko**, **Kimi**, **Louie**, **Ogiboy**, **Alonso**, **Nica**, **Maxi**, **Carlos** and **Axel**.

The body lies in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City and will be cremated on Wednesday, October 9, after the Mass for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Only your best is good enough
for your mission."
– General Atienza

In Loving Memory

On the 36th Death Anniversary of

GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children **Zenaida** and **David Clymer**, **Eloisa** and **Victor Lim**, **Herminia Atienza-Ilano**, **Rosalinda** and **Balbino Hernando**, **Rolando Atienza**, and **Josefina Atienza-Salvaña**, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Tuesday, October 8, 2002 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 2:00 p.m., after which the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies will be held. Holy Mass will also be offered at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 8:00 a.m. and at military chapels throughout the country.

We invite you also to remember EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA who died on June 22, 1995.

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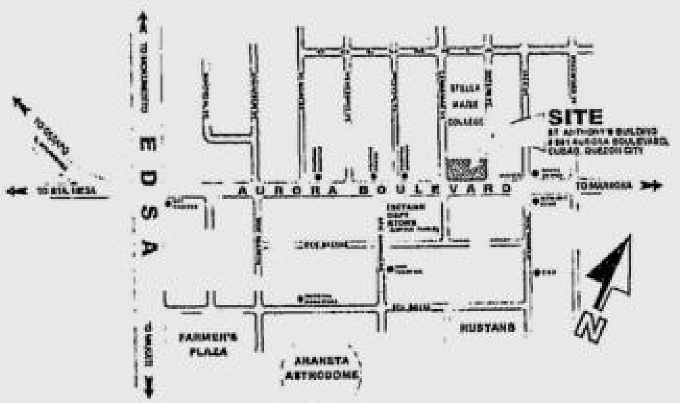

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ROBERT "BOBBY" R. GAMAD

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Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 5, 2002 at the age of 55.

His loving wife **Violy**; children **Glenn & Erika**, **George & Eva**, **Diane**; grandchildren **Peepom & Adele**, **Same & Justine**.

His remains lie in state at Chapel-B, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Q.C. from October 6 to 10, 2002.

Cremation will be on Thursday, October 10, 2002 at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

MARCIAL MANALILI SALVADOR, SR.

(Ka Marcial)

of San Miguel, Bulacan and Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C.

Peacefully joined our Lord on Oct. 5, 2002
at the age of 102.

His wife **Guadalupe** (†); children **Claro** (†), **Jun** and **Auring**, **Letty** and **Manny** (Sydney, Australia), **Desi** and **Baby** (†), **Luz**, **Donet**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the Forest Park, Caloocan City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

RP creating consolidated cybercrime law

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A SUBCOMMITTEE of the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC) is now looking at consolidating all existing cybercrime measures in Congress, including provisions of a controversial international treaty on cybercrime signed in Budapest last year.

The bill will merge at least six pending bills in Congress that deal with cybercrime, and integrate provisions of the treaty on combating online crimes, according to Albert de la Cruz, head of the subcommittee on Information Security and Internet Privacy of the ITECC's legal committee.

The ITECC is the highest IT policymaking body in the Philippines.

Twenty-six members of the Council of Europe, including Japan, the United States, Canada and South Africa, signed the treaty, as they all agreed to put an end to activities such as online child pornography, fraud and hacking. The treaty also sets guidelines on how countries will police the Internet.

De la Cruz said the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 (specifically sections 33a and b) of the Philippines fails to address online crimes that have been cited in the treaty.

While hacking as a crime is addressed in the E-commerce Law, it does not deal with issues on privacy, online child pornography and fraud, among others, De la Cruz added.

"Security as an issue has grown out of its technology shell. In fact, the mere word cybercrime veers away from the real intent of the bill on cybercrime," said Lito Averia, member of the Information Security and Privacy subcommittee, and also head of the ITECC's subcommittee on the Department of Trade and Industry Legal Support.

Cybercrime is defined as using computers or the Internet to propagate a crime. Therefore it goes beyond hacking, Averia noted.

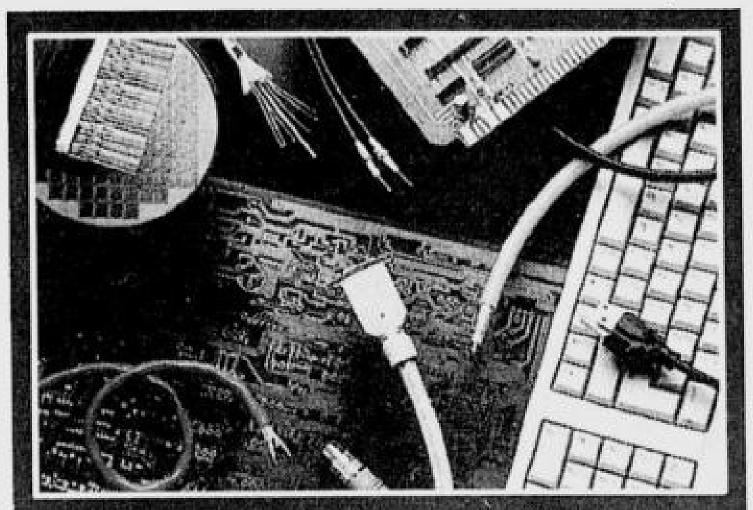
De la Cruz, for his part, said the proposed measure against cybercrime would create a Cybercrime Coordinating Council in charge of all activities dealing with online crimes, and a cybercrime police or a national computer emergency response team.

Forty-three member-states of the Council of Europe—including the United States, Japan and South Africa, drafted the Budapest cybercrime treaty. The treaty was opened to any country who wishes to sign it.

Civil rights groups and Internet service providers have, however, opposed the treaty, saying it imposed burdens on providers and failed to include enough public input.

Two years ago, the 15-member European Union also proposed its own separate treaty on cybercrime.

The United States, through Washington, has released a draft of its own national strategy to secure cyberspace this year. The 64-page plan focuses on the hands-off approach of the government to securing cyberspace, as it proposed to let individuals and corporations carry the biggest burden of securing cyberspace.



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A full copy of the Philippine Electronic Act of 2000 can be viewed from these pages:
http://www.bknet.org/laws/ecomm.html
http://www.chanrobles.com/ecommerceimplementingrules.htm

Study confirms Asia to become biggest cell phone market

A STUDY by the MRT Cellular Team of Europe confirms earlier projections of cellular telephone manufacturers that Asia will become the biggest mobile phone market in the world. The study also reveals that traditional markets like Europe and the United States are reaching their saturation points, necessitating a quick entry into new Asian markets such as China.

Last year, the region with the highest number of cellular mobile phone subscribers was Western Europe, with 287 million subscribers. This is not surprising since Western Europe is homeland to big cell phone makers such as Nokia of Finland, Ericsson (now Sony-Ericsson) of Sweden, Philips of the Netherlands, Alcatel of France and Siemens of Germany. Combined with Eastern Europe's 42 million subscribers, the total European cell phone subscriber base was 329 million in 2001.

In comparison, Asia had a total of 316 million subscribers last year (China, 139 million; Japan, 70 million; rest of Asia, 107 million), while North America had 122 million subscribers.

The tables will turn by the end of 2002, however, when Asia reaches a total subscriber base of 373 million (China, 172 million; Japan, 78 million; rest of Asia 123 million) compared with Europe's 364 million subscribers (Western Europe, 315 million; Eastern Europe, 49 million) and North America's 160-million subscriber base.

The trend will continue in 2003, according to the European MRT Cellular Team. Asia is expected to have a total subscriber base of 432 million (China, 210 million; Japan, 83 million; rest of Asia, 139 million) compared to Europe's 392 million subscribers (Western Europe, 337 million; Eastern Europe, 55 million) and North America's 205-million subscriber base.

In August 2001, China overtook the subscriber base of the United States, becoming the fastest-growing region worldwide.

Such figures have led phone manufacturers to become more aggressive in Asia—setting up manufacturing facilities in China, designing phones customized for the Asian market and expanding sales channels in Southeast Asia.

The trend also contributed to the market share increase of Asian-made handsets from South Korea's Samsung and Japan's Panasonic, Kyocera, NEC and Mitsubishi.

However, the skyrocketing increase in Asian mobile subscribers is not the only reason why handset manufacturers from America, Europe and even Japan are focusing on the Asian market. The same study by the European MRT Cellular Team shows that the North American, European and Japanese markets are fast getting saturated.

The world penetration rate of cellular phones in 2001 stood at 14 percent, a figure expected to grow to 24 percent by 2005. The US penetration rate is projected to grow from 39 percent in 2001 to 81 percent in 2005. Western Europe's penetration rate is forecast to grow from 63 percent in 2001 to 82 percent in 2005. Japan's penetration rate is forecast to grow from 55 percent in 2001 to 69 percent in 2005.

Such figures reflect the high adoption rate of mobile phones in the three above-mentioned regions, which also consequently means that in three years their markets would be saturated, hence the need to expand to Asia.

In comparison, the penetration rate in China is projected to grow from 11 percent in 2001 to only 25 percent in 2005, leaving 75 percent of the Chinese population—roughly 800 million people—as potential customers. Meanwhile, cell phone penetration for the rest of Asia is forecast to grow from 5 percent in 2001 to only 8 percent by 2005, again leaving more room for market growth.

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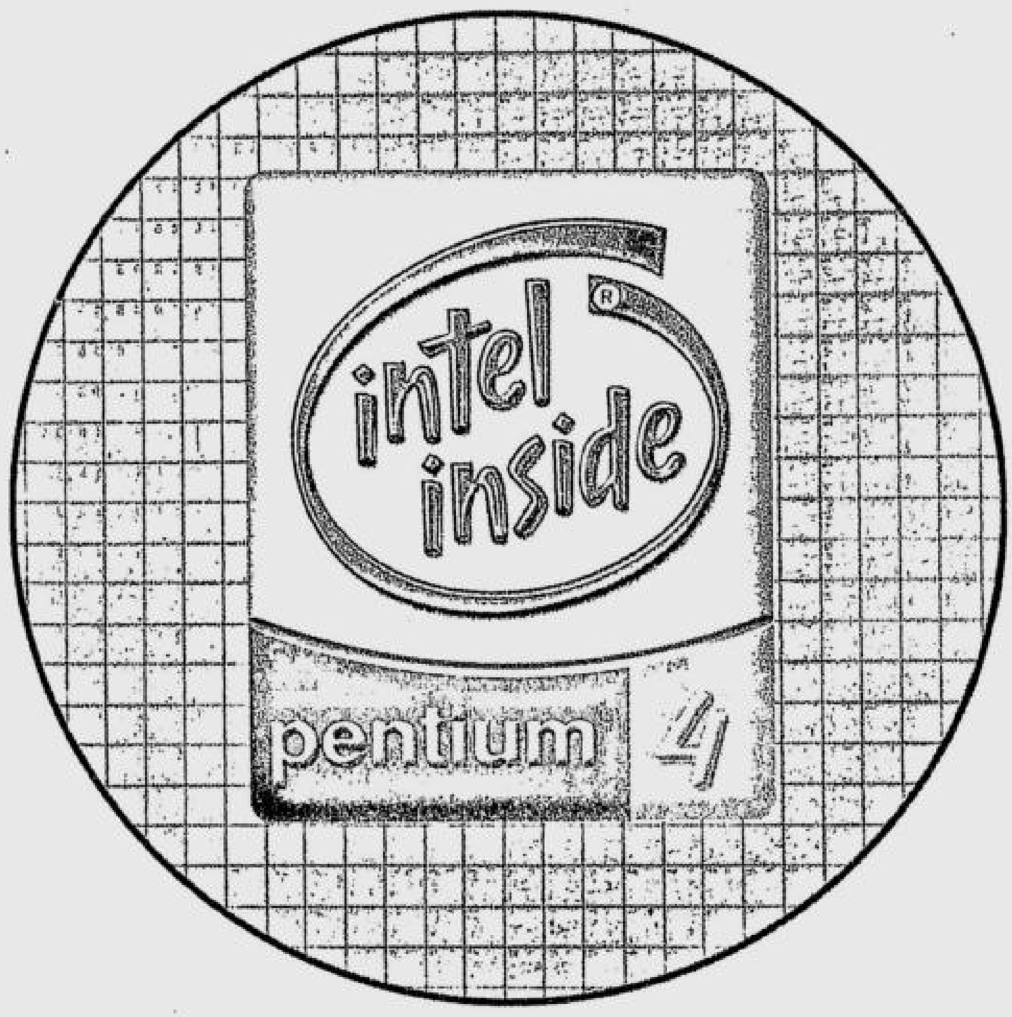

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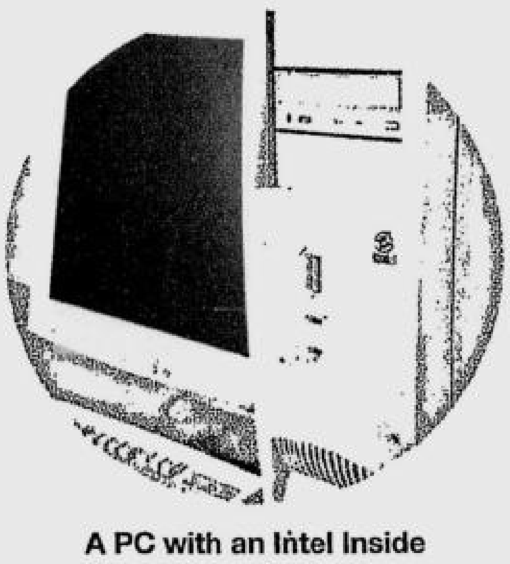

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Oracle challenges Notes, Exchange

By Gerry Plaza

DATABASE giant Oracle starts to make giant strides in a new software plain next week with the release of Collaboration Suite, the company's not-so-modest pawn in the billion-dollar marketplace.

You guessed it, the Oracle suite is being pitted against Lotus Notes and Microsoft Exchange, which are now dominant players in the collaboration market. Oracle's entry into the fray would most certainly enhance product functionality and increase user interest and benefits, particularly in the area of enterprise data management.

Market research firm International Data Corp. valued the collaboration software market at $1.6 billion, with IBM-Lotus leading worldwide figures last year with a 49-percent revenue share. The list placed Microsoft at second with 39 percent and Novell at a distant third with 6 percent.

With its new, compelling features in the suite's new e-mail, calendaring and messaging software—features they said would push the envelope in the development of such packages targeted for the expanded enterprise—Oracle would most certainly emerge as a fierce competitor in the market that offers products seen as downright critical in enterprise productivity.

Oracle's advantage: Collaboration Suite supports a wide range of content types.

The suite carries Oracle Files, a software developed to handle audio, video, images and text and all part of its management capabilities covering e-mail, voice mail, scheduling and even hold Web-based virtual conferences and allows users to sync data into their wireless handhelds.

It will also include file system support and workflow, all centralized and protected in a database with universal access through Microsoft Outlook, any Web browser, voice, wireless devices and fax. Oracle is introducing a number of innovations to collaboration software, including integrated voice access and voice mail as well as Ultra Search capabilities, which give users the unprecedented ability to search in one place for any document, e-mail, voice mail or other communication using dates, words or phrases.

Currently, the suite runs on Oracle's 9i database and application server on top of Solaris, HP-UX and Linux operating systems. Future versions would allow tighter integration with Oracle 11i eBusiness suite, covering financial, customer service, manufacturing and human resources operations.

Oracle officials claim the product is less expensive and more secure than its rivals, with its $60-per-user licensing fee. The company also offers a $10-a-month per user license on a hosted arrangement.

The product, they said, combines newly developed and previously released Oracle technologies. It offers unified messaging, wherein users can check e-mail or voice mail from their PC, phone or wireless devices. Recently acquired technology from a recent takeover of Steltor, meanwhile, allows users to intelligently manage their calendars.

Even current Microsoft users can take advantage of the suite's broad functionality, which allows the usage of familiar Outlook user interface while taking advantage of the Oracle infrastructure.

Surveys say INQ7.net remains top RP website

By Joey G. Alarilla

ACCORDING to two separate user surveys, INQ7.net was the top Philippine website chosen by Filipino Internet users in the Philippines and in other countries.

The latest Filipino Internet User Report of DigitalFilipino.com found that, for the second year in a row, Yahoo! is the top foreign website visited by Filipino Internet users in the Philippines while INQ7.net is the top Philippine website. Meanwhile, a readership profile survey by Filipinas Magazine, a nationally circulated publication based in San Francisco, California, showed that INQ7.net is the top Philippine website among its readers.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint-venture online company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc. Based on site statistics, INQ7.net is averaging 12.4 million page views a month as of June 2002.

Mona Lisa Yuchengco, publisher of Filipinas Magazine, announced the results of the magazine's reader survey at a media conference during the 1st Global Filipino Community Networking Convention. The convention was held at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, the Filipino Internet User Report was based on the results of a survey by Manila-based e-commerce research portal DigitalFilipinas.com. The report was based on the results of interviews conducted with close to 600 Internet users in Cebu, Davao, Manila, Iloilo, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro and other parts of the Philippines.

INQ7.net is still the leading Philippine site among the top five sites most frequently visited by Internet users in the Philippines. According to the Filipino Internet User Report, the top five sites are Yahoo!, Google, INQ7.net, Hotmail.com and Yehey.

Janette Toral, DigitalFilipino.com founder and past president of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, explained that the report is based on face-to-face interviews with users.

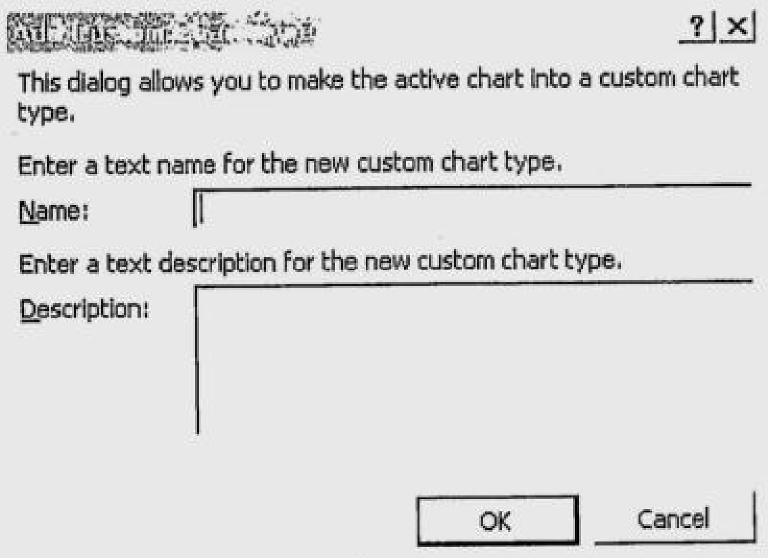
"We did the survey from February to August of this year. We don't do online surveys. Only face-to-face interviews where we have a two-page survey that respondents need to fill up," Toral said in an interview.

Based on the results of the Filipino Internet User Report, research is the main reason Filipinos go online, followed by e-mail.

Toral, however, explained that with the growth of local and international text messaging (SMS or short message service) and e-mail via mobile phones, users are no longer as dependent as before on PC-based e-mail.

Based on this trend, Toral said that Philippine websites must firm up their wireless strategy in order to attract users and win their loyalty.

"INQ7.net's staying power is its continuously updated content and special features that are only available online (like YOU)," Toral said. "Knowing that they can stay updated on the developments by monitoring INQ7.net's site (like the Breaking News section) makes (INQ7.net) the reliable online news center in the country. The challenge for INQ7.net is to extend its news content on the mobile phone as well and dominate it, too. In our 2nd Mobile Phone User Report, news is the most frequently accessed value-added services (VAS) for its current user base. Compared to logos and icons that people access only once a month, more than half of SMS news readers get the news on a daily basis. It is interesting to note that, considering that the carriers don't promote news as a VAS too much," she said.



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Reusing Excel chart layouts

By Jerry Liao

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DSL Brews perfect Cafés

Walk down the streets of Cebu and Davao cities and chances are you'll find at least two internet cafés in every block. The sheer number of these establishments is jarring. A pedestrian might perceive one café to be just like the next one, and the next. But a regular internet café patron would know that not all internet cafés are the same.

CLICKERZ

CLICKERZ • Young married couple Radley and Banjie Barrientos didn't know much about computers. But they put up an internet café anyway. "We knew this kind of business was gonna grow," Radley posits.

Their instincts were right on the money. They opened Clickerz in 1999, and they have been opening a new net café every year after that. The two most recent are the Internet Exchange branches, which serve a clientele that was edgier than that of Clickerz.

"We started out with a dial-up account," relates Banjie. But this kind of connection failed [illegible] customers. "Everyday you [illegible] angry customers [illegible] "Nagrereklamo, hindi [illegible] Hindi sila maka-send ng pictures [illegible]

The couple has been through [illegible] of other providers and got [illegible] up with all of them when they failed to give them what they need. Radley explains what these needs are, "First is speed. Second is reliability, because we're [illegible] on a 24-7 basis."

It was really quite a relief for the Barrientoses couple when PLDT DSL came to town this year. They saw some posters around town, and went to PLDT to inquire at the first opportunity. They have promptly proceeded to change their internet connections, one café at a time.

Changes ensued. "More users. More satisfied customers. And more satisfied customers refer us to their friends," Radley and Banjie enumerate. A growing number of internet cafés in Davao now use PLDT DSL. "A lot of them," Banjie shares, "we referred to PLDT."

CLICKERZ owner Radley Barrientos

CYBERSCAPE internet
global presence is our concern

CYBERSCAPE • Geoffrey Labos was 18 when he put up his first Cyberscape café in Cebu. It was a small one. Geoffrey could only fit 10 computers and he had no room to set up an office. And, Geoffrey admits, "Di pa kaayo ko kahiba'o [I didn't know that much yet.]"

That was in 1998. Today, four years later, Cyberscape has grown astronomically. It now has a total of 61 workstations, distributed among 3 branches, each one with an office from which a more business-savvy Geoffrey could run the business with 25-year-old Sherwin Sanchez, the manager he hired.

"We're the biggest here," Geoffrey beams. But he and Sherwin both know bigger also means bigger challenges and stiffer competition. Sherwin says that they must always focus on their customers. "You have to give them high-speed internet [illegible] high-end computers, friendly staff [illegible]

[illegible] which is why the company signed up with PLDT DSL almost as soon as it [illegible] this year in Cebu. Cyberscape started on [illegible] internet [illegible] bigger bandwidth [illegible] Geoffrey and Sherwin [illegible] allows them to give [illegible] affordable [illegible] P25 per hour [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible]," Sherwin says. And it [illegible] big dream [illegible] for Cyberscape. "We're able [illegible] equipment and [illegible] our services." They're [illegible] expanded to include website hosting [illegible] self-paced computer [illegible] programs to their menu of services.

Cyberscape may be good business, but it's also good fun. Geoffrey and Sherwin are still internet junkies at heart. "Parang laruan ko 'to," Geoffrey smiles. With PLDT DSL the two young men can surf, chat and download all the MP3 house music they want.

CYBERSCAPE COO Geoffrey Labos & Manager Sherwin Sanchez

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"We started out with a dial-up account," relates Banjie. But this kind of connection failed to satisfy their customers. "Everyday you get to see these angry customers," Radley recounts. "Nagrereklamo, hindi sila maka-connect. Hindi sila maka-send ng pictures," Banjie adds.

The couple has been through a lot of other providers and got fed up with all of them when they failed to give them what they need. Radley explains what these needs are, "First is speed. Second is reliability, because we're operating on a 24-7 basis."

It was really quite a relief for the Barrientoses couple when PLDT DSL came to town this year. They saw some posters around town, and went to PLDT to inquire at the first opportunity. They have promptly proceeded to change their internet-connections, one café at a time.

Changes ensued. "More users. More satisfied customers. And more satisfied customers refer us to their friends," Radley and Banjie enumerate. A growing number of internet cafés in Davao now use PLDT DSL. "A lot of them," Banjie shares, "we referred to PLDT."

CLICKERZ owner, Radley Barrientos

DSL Brews perfect Cafés

CYBERSCAPE internet
global presence is our concern

CYBERSCAPE • Geoffrey Labos was 18 when he put up his first Cyberscape café in Cebu. It was a small one. Geoffrey could only fit 10 computers and he had no room to set up an office. And, Geoffrey admits, "Di pa kaayo ko kahiba'o [I didn't know that much yet.]"

That was in 1998. Today, four years later, Cyberscape has grown astronomically. It now has a total of 61 workstations, distributed among 3 branches, each one with an office from which a more business-savvy Geoffrey could run the business with 25-year-old Sherwin Sanchez, the manager he hired.

"We're the biggest here," Geoffrey beams. But he and Sherwin both know bigger also means bigger challenges and stiffer competition. Sherwin says that they must always focus on their customers, "You have to give them high-speed internet access... high-end computers... friendly staff."

Which is why they eagerly signed up with PLDT DSL almost as soon as it launched this year in Cebu. Cyberscape started off using leased line internet access. But now it can provide its customers a bigger bandwidth, which would have cost Geoffrey and Sherwin a lot, but which PDLT DSL allows them to give, still at a [illegible] blowingly affordable rate of P25 per hour.

[illegible] affordable and reasonable," Sherwin says. And it [illegible] the big dreams they have for Cyberscape. "We're able to [illegible] equipment, and also our services." They're not just an internet café anymore—they've expanded to include website hosting [illegible], self-paced computer training programs to their menu of services.

Cyberscape may be good business, but it's also good fun. Geoffrey and Sherwin are still internet junkies at heart. "Parang laruan ko 'to," Geoffrey smiles. With PLDT DSL the two young men can surf, chat and download all the MP3 house music they want.

CYBERSCAPE COO Geoffrey Labos & Manager Sherwin Sanchez

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FORGET AIRPORT TERMINAL

Taipans should build more houses

By Clarissa S. Batino

FORGET the airport terminal and think about helping the government in its housing programs.

That in gist was what the Macapagal administration had told the country's prominent taipans over lunch in Malacañang three weeks ago.

The country's six richest Filipino-Chinese businessmen banded together for the first time since their first attempt to undertake a project (Naia-3 airport terminal) together through Asia's Emerging Dragons, and that was during the time of Former President Fidel Ramos.

The six are Lucio Tan of Fortune Tobacco Corp., Henry Sy of the SM Group of Companies, Alfonso Yuchengco of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., George Ty of the Metrobank Group, John Gokongwei of the Robinson's Group and Andrew Gotianun of the Filinvest Group.

The taipans lost the Naia-3 project to Philippine International Air Terminal Co., Asia's Emerging Dragons split up and that was the last heard of about the taipans' involvement into a government flagship project.

Government villages

But President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to bring them together in another ambitious undertaking and into the fold, and she believes the government's housing concerns may do the trick.

Dubbed as government villages, the government's plan is to get the taipans' help in converting idle land of the state into mid-rise housing projects initially for public school teachers, police, social workers, clerks and the rest of the state's 1.5 million workforce.

Those who think that the Sept. 20 lunch with the taipans was just one of those social lunches and that the talks about the housing projects just an issue of that day to be conveniently forgotten the day after, are definitely wrong. The project is actually moving now.

Sources from the financial community say the government is trying to woo the likes of bankers Deogracias Vistan and Octavio Espiritu to coordinate the taipan's projects.

Vistan resigned as president of the country's third-largest bank, Equitable PCI Bank, in March 2001 and is reportedly enjoying now the fruits of his long-time career in banking. Former Far East Bank president Espiritu now sits on the board of Manila Electric Co. as a government nominee.

The project manager will be tasked to devise ways to raise funds, manage the entire development efforts and ensure that the project will be worthwhile for all the stakeholders.

"We want to create government villages in Metro Manila that will provide shelter for government employees at the most affordable prices using idle government properties," says Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Supportive taipans

The market for such housing projects is huge consisting of more than 1.5 million government workers with access to the housing loans provided by the Government Service Insurance System and the Home Mutual Development Corp. or Pag-Ibig.

"Except for Lucio Tan, who was then out of the country, most of the taipans were there (during the lunch). They are very supportive of the project," says Camacho.

First in Camacho's list is the sprawling Food Terminal Inc. property, which used to be an industrial park.

He said he had asked the taipans if any of them would be interested in developing the property and converting it into a mid-rise housing project for government employees.

While only Gotianun is directly engaged in residential development, the others have interests in property development projects. Retail king Sy has a stake in Tagaytay Highlands and a huge property in the coastal development in Roxas Blvd. Ty also has a property development project in the same area. Gokongwei has his malls and the Galleria Suites, Yuchengco has RCBC Land, and Tan has Century Park Sheraton and various low-profile housing portfolio.

It also helps that all of the taipans are engaged in banking and their financial interests should provide dynamism to the housing project.

Camacho stressed that the government was not asking the taipans for a dole out. He said they were asked to share their expertise and influence in helping create the so-called "government villages" at the lowest cost possible.

For instance, he said that big business

TAIPANS/ C2

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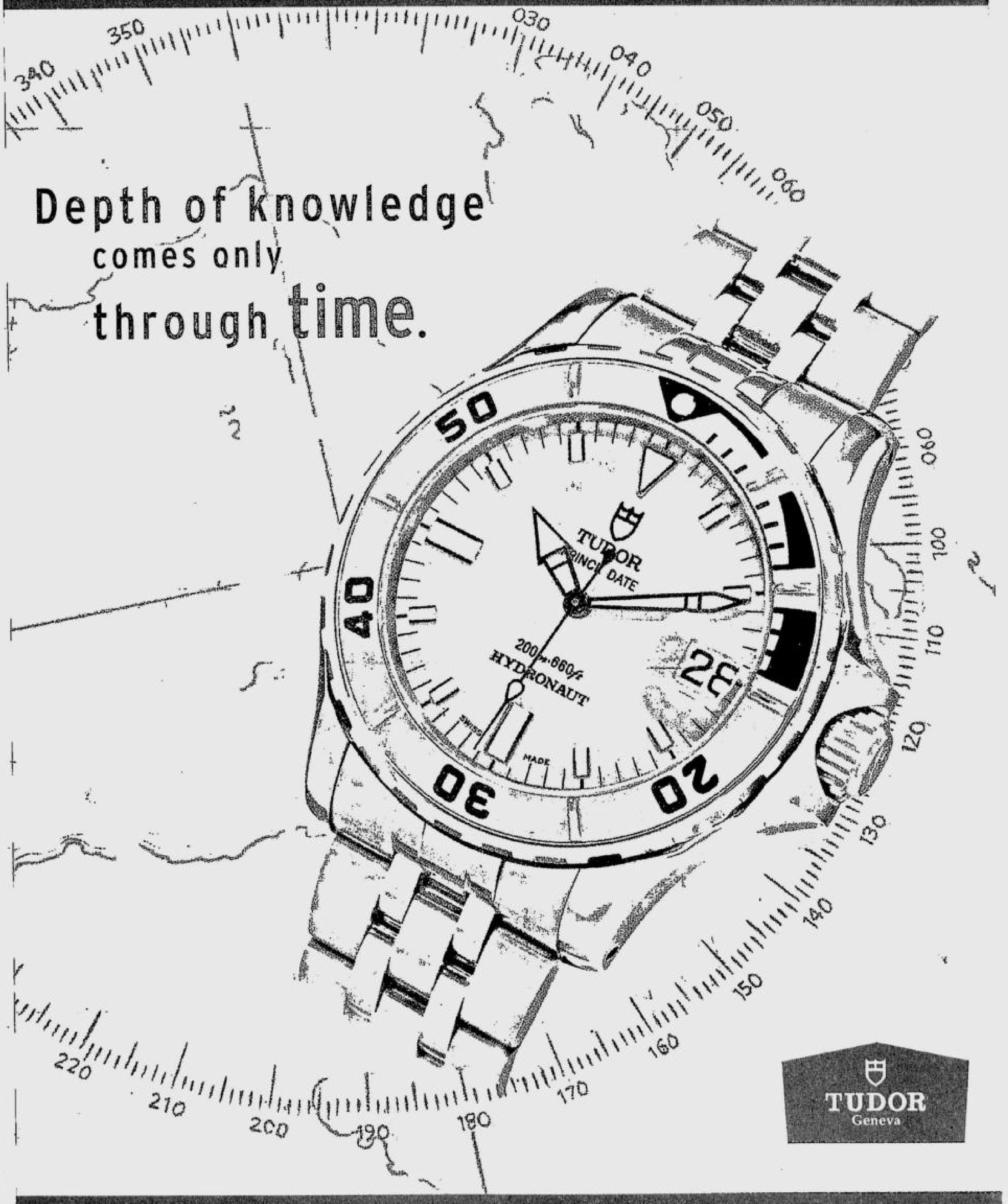

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Unsung 'Aduana' community heroes take a bow

By Michelle V. Remo

IT IS EASY to see how customs and commerce play a vital role for the country, as the revenues generated by the industries constitute a bulk of our country's coffers.

The shipping of cargos from another country, their entry into our gateways, their proper handling through modernized facilities, manufacturing and documentation of goods, port development, duty collection and many other related activities are part and parcel of the industry, sometimes referred to as the "Aduana" community.

Aduana literally means customs.

Looking back on our history, we can see how the Filipinos' practice of trade had started and gradually developed. Our forefathers already had this concept of trade during the pre-Spanish era when they were exchanging goods with the Chinese, Malays and other neighbors.

From the crude way of exchange during the early times, when cargos were individually lifted from one storage area to another and when the shipment of goods took a lot of time, the practice of trade has developed and became a huge industry.

There are now modern facilities, sophisticated ways of processing goods and export processing zones.

Export-processing zones are specific areas where foreign-based companies lodge their facilities and products, which our labor force processes and manufactures, ready to be sold in places outside the Philippines.

These zones, as explained by Chamber of Customs Brokers Inc. (CCBI) president Leonides David, benefit our country through the huge amount of investments that come along with the activities in those areas.

He also cited the employment opportunities for Filipinos in those export-processing zones, which save them from having to seek employment abroad.

The export-processing zones contributed a total of P9.778 billion in investments and currently provides employment to 758,685 people.

Meanwhile, a freeport, David explains, is a "controlled territory" where foreign-based companies may manufacture and sell their products only within that territory.

From the manual method of carrying goods, ports now have come up with systems that make cargo handling an easier task. Storage facilities have been developed and logistics have been improved with the use of technology.

But all these developments will not be possible if not for the people and institutions that pioneered trading concepts and contributed efforts to improve efficiency of operations in the gateways.

Thus, the CCBI, a professional organization consisting of licensed customs brokers, recognizes those people and institutions that gave significant contributions to the Aduana community through the "Aduana Awards" held last Sept. 27.

The winners include terminal operators Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI), which operates the South Harbor, and the International Container Terminal Service Inc. (ICTSI), which operates the North Harbor, for their efforts to develop their respective ports;

The Philippine Exporters Confederation for its role in advocating for Filipino exporters;

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for conceptualizing and initiating the Freeport zone; Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) director general Lilia de Lima for her leadership in the operations of export-processing zones;

Francisco Delgado who initiated "palletization" and containerization in the country (pallets and containers are equipment that helped a lot in the easier handling of cargos);

Former Bureau of Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva for his leadership at the BOC; Eduardo de Guzman, who started from scratch and now chairs the Sky Freight Group, one of the largest transport companies in the country; the late Ramon Marzan for his pioneering efforts in project cargo handling (the said project has made possible the handling of very huge equipment); and the late Enrique Razon who was the former head of ICTSI for spearheading the company that contributed significantly to the gateway.

According to the CCBI chair, the aim of the Aduana awards is to "tell people that there are heroes in the community who may inspire them, and thus increase the number of those heroes."

It is always heard that gateways or ports are "graft ridden," that a stigma seems to have already developed when the term customs is heard.

Thus, with the Aduana awards aiming to recognize the "heroes" of the Aduana community, the CCBI tries to focus on the significant contributions in the community for others to emulate and to make known to everyone that there are great people in the community as well.

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Total school fees paid as of 2001

8,831
Total number of fully serviced plans

63,748
Total number of enrolled scholars

P 6,540,305,902.08
Total school fees paid as of December 2001

43,680
Total number of fully serviced plans

81,909
Total number of availing schclars

P 7,195,062,100.92
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Price of freedom soars for fallen execs

NEW YORK—Five million, $10 million, $100 million—in America it could be a lottery payout, a city budget or the price of a bridge.

For corporate executives, it could be bail.

As the number of executives charged with corporate fraud grows and the financial wherewithal of those individuals increase, judges are demanding they surrender their passports and put up huge sums of money to stay out of jail until the cases against them are concluded.

"You're going to have to get used to these numbers with an awful lot of zeros," said defense attorney Harvey Weinberg, a former Manhattan prosecutor. "You've never had such a spate of high profile cases where the money involved is so astronomical."

The US Constitution gives a defendant the right to bail—money posted that will assure the person returns to court on the date that the judge sets for the next court appearance.

Adelphia Communications founder John Rigas and two of his sons are free on a personal recognizance bond of $10 million each.

Former WorldCom chief financial officer Scott Sullivan, arrested on charges of conspiracy to commit securities fraud, was released on $10-million bail, secured by property. WorldCom former controller David Myers' bail was $2 million.

Tyco International's former chief executive, Dennis Kozlowski, is charged with stealing $600 million and has been handed the biggest bill for freedom, so far. A US district court judge ordered Kozlowski held on a $100 million personal recognizance bond and he eventually put up 10 percent of that figure.

Bail is not an indicator of guilt nor innocence and is not supposed to be excessive or a form of punishment.

"It's the amount he can afford to lose by skipping," Columbia University Law School Professor Emeritus Richard-Uviller said.

In considering bail, judges mull the factors that may prompt a person to flee: the threat of a long prison sentence; the threat to the community they pose if the defendant is free; the defendant's ties to the community and his or her history.

Those who are deemed a flight risk or a danger to the community usually don't get bail.

Bail has often been a controversial issue. In the 1970s, New York Judge Bruce Wright acquired the sobriquet "Turn 'Em Loose Bruce" for setting low or no bail for some defendants, believing bail was often excessive for poor defendants.

As the super wealthy became even wealthier over the past few years, the amounts they themselves can afford to post to retain their freedom before trial have kept pace.

"A wealthy man need less money to run away with; a poor person needs a lot of money to run away with," said attorney Joel Winograd, who represented trendy shoe manufacturer Steven Madden. *Reuters*

Taipans ...

From page C1

groups usually have access to cheaper cement, steel and other materials that could be used for the project.

"What we told the taipans is that here is a property, develop it into something that we can sell to our employees. We have to bring down the cost but the turnaround will be faster," he said.

The finance secretary pointed out that the effort was being coordinated with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to make real estate eligible for compliance to the agri-agra law and for rediscounting.

These measures, he added, could help bring down the cost of the housing project.

"We also have to make lending to housing projects very attractive to banks so they will be encouraged to help us in our housing initiatives," said Camacho.

How to break the cycle of poverty

MAPping the Future

Dr. Corazon PB. Claudio

WHILE you are reading this short article, children around the world are dying due to malnutrition-about 12 children less than 5 years old every minute, or around 6.3 million of them a year.

And if readers don't go beyond that line and help reverse the trend, the future situation might even become worse.

My opening line is adapted from the World Bank calendar for 2002-2003. I don't have the equivalent figures for the Philippines now. But it is well known that many children in our country are still not getting adequate health, education, and psychosocial development services-the basic services needed for early childhood development (ECD).

Even in areas where ECD services are available, many children do not enjoy the benefits because their parents do not give enough attention to ECD or are just not aware of its importance.

Making children sleep or rest for longer than necessary so that "they'll grow faster" and they won't create trouble seems to be the most common ECD practice of many parents. Practices and beliefs like that are but some of the barriers to effective ECD—the one important factor that could break the cycle of poverty.

About 36 percent of the world's population or about 2.1 billion are children. One in 3 of them lives in abject poverty in developing countries.

Children are most vulnerable to environmental hazards because their bodies are growing and their immune systems are not fully developed. For every 100 children born, 40 will live without adequate sanitation, 30 will suffer from malnutrition, 26 will not be immunized, 19 will have no access to clean drinking water, and 17 will never go to school.

I suspect that the figures for the Philippines, which I could not readily get, are better for some of those indicators and worse for others. Those figures on the conditions of our children are important.

If we are truly serious about breaking the cycle of poverty we must give priority to providing poor children the basic services and opportunities that can give them a better future. And the place to start is in the first six years of a child, which are very critical for his or her development.

Research studies have confirmed that a baby's brain does not depend on genetics alone. The brain develops from aged zero to 3 years. About 75 percent of the development process is completed at age 7.

What should we do then to take advantage of this short window of opportunity to favorably influence a child's development? At the recently concluded World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, UNICEF's executive director Carol Bellamy explained briefly what needs to be done and why: ". . . invest in the comprehensive care of children, including health care, clean water, adequate sanitation, education, and protection from abuse. Healthy and educated children become productive young adults. These young adults later become healthy, educated parents and a true measure of sustainable development."

In the Philippines, the government's investments in ECD have been boosted since 1998 with financial and technical assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. The national ECD Project is being pilot tested in regions 6, 7, and 12. It aims to improve the conditions and integrate the delivery of services on health, education, and psychosocial development for children aged zero to 6 years. It is being implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as lead agency, and the Departments of Health and Education.

The project targets mainly three groups—local government units (LGUs), service providors, and parents. It provides technical, material, and financial inputs for the improvement of the capacity of LGUs to effectively deliver and manage essential ECD services in an integrated manner. It trains and assists service providors and parents in performing their roles in ECD.

Project activities include strengthening of parenting skills; provision of day care, pre-school and other ECD programs; bolstering of the economic, physical, and moral support systems of families and young children; and advocacy for ECD.

Even before the pilot project ends, one could already see clearly the need to introduce ECD to other regions that have not been covered by the project. Those areas include Metro Manila, where ECD practices are also poor despite modern conveniences or, perhaps, because of them as they also cause pollution of the mind (from bad TV programs) or body (from vehicular emissions).

The need to expand the ECD program is one investment challenge to the business community. But business companies can also reap directly from investing in ECD. Employees with inadequate child care are more likely to be late for work, absent, or distracted on the job. And high rates of turnover, absenteeism, and low productivity cost an employer money.

How can business leaders be involved in ECD? The first step is to look into the ECD practices in their companies and in the homes and communities of their employees. See what improvements are needed and what resources are available. Business leaders can also initiate local ECD projects that may involve the government and civil society. One simple example is a project to ensure provision of clean water and sanitary facilities in every day-care center or school.

Business leaders can become policy advocates for ECD at the national and local levels.

Business can also help promote ECD practice by incorporating ECD messages in their advertisements.

Parents and the government now shoulder the cost of ECD. *(The author is co-Chair of MAP's committee on environment and urban development and President of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*

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Umed reaches out to docs with Interactive case confabs

TRUE to its thrust as a continuing medical education program (CME) concerned with improving the knowledge and skills of medical professionals, Unilab Medical Education and Development (Umed) reaches out to doctors in the provinces by conducting interactive case conferences to help teach them in their specific areas of practice.

Under the program, facilitators who are highly trained medical professionals, diplomates and specialists are sent to the provinces with practical teachings that are relevant and suited to the day-to-day needs of the practitioners.

Asthma, childhood immunization, and pediatric infectious diseases are among the topics taken in the interactive case conferences. They are done in modules with the facilitators leading the participants through materials contained in workbooks developed by the Umed faculty. Iloilo, Cebu, Dumaguete and General Santos were some of the venues of these recent conferences.

Questions and issues are raised in the course of the sessions, resulting in a rich exchange of experiences and sharing of ideas among the facilitators and participants. Hence, interactive case conferences are not only consultative in nature, they become venues where both parties learn medical lessons from each other.

The participants in the past conferences were one in agreeing that the comprehensive presentation, practicality of the discussion, exchange of views, informative workbooks, shared experiences and highly interactive approach were keys to the credibility and success of the Umed interactive case conferences. More importantly, since their practical needs were met, ultimately it was their patients who benefited.

GLOBELINES IN MARIKINA OPENS

Globelines, the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom, has recently opened its new Globelines Payments and Services Center in Marikina. The new Globelines Center in Marikina is envisioned to be among the first of many new Globelines centers that will be deployed in areas in the country that are served by Globe Telecom's landline telephone service. The centers also aim to provide Globelines subscribers with convenient sales, payment and customer service facilities. Shown is Globe Telecom Wireline centers head Tina Ortiz (2nd from left), Globe Telecom head/COO for Wireline business Gil Tenio (center) and Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando (2nd from right) leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the opening. With them are Monsignor Arnel Lagarejos, who led the blessing of the center, and Globe Telecom VP for Wireline business Ramon Pineda.

ESC PARTNERS WITH CITIBANK

Earth+Style Corp. (ESC), the lifestyle property developer, together with My Home and Family Reader magazines, recently partnered with global banking leader Citibank for Citibank's Gateway to Good Life promo, which brings matters discussed in the Smooth Parenting series to villages around the metropolis. Through the promo, ESC will accompany Citibank in its visits to several villages where matters relating to health, fashion and lifestyle will be discussed. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) ESC's internal sales head Lolli Domingo, Citibank's AVP for events, media and alliances Carmina Gigi Rodriguez, ESC's corporate communications head and My Home publisher Joy Basilio. Witnessing the event are (back row, from left) My Home associate publisher Earl Estrera and Family Reader associate publisher Ria Yap.

UP studes go 'Mania!'

RECENTLY, the Beatles' spirit overshadowed the UP-Manila Campus when Snafu (the Beatles' sound-and-look-alike band) played back Beatles songs for this year's UP Band Festival UP Mania with the theme "Let the Beat Go On" at Baluarte Dilao, Muralla, Intramuros. The event was organized by the student council of the University of the Philippines-Manila and Mauve Management and Entertainment, in cooperation with presentor San Miguel Beer. The event was considered the prelaunch event for SMB's Oktoberfest.

UP Mania was also brought in part by Monterey Foods, Absolute Mineral Water, Coca-Cola, Jack N' Jill Potato Chips, Cream-O Sandwich Cookies, XO Butter Caramel and Hawk Bag.

UP Mania was participated in by UP's best campus bands Funny Bunnies, Drunken Master, Jah Acolytes, MU Band, Joint Play, Fire on 45, Switch, Spankies Delight and No Left Turn. Rapper/poet Syke blazed the mic as the event's solo guest performer. Gorgeous, bubbly and sexy Mutya ng Pilipinas 2002 winner Miriam Chui (now "MTB" regular Thursday host) and first runner-up Kristine Caballero hypnotized the partying guys with their killing smiles, titillating moves and mind-boggling punch lines.

UP boys and gals had more fun through exciting games, and received giveaways from generous sponsors. For concerts, events, movies and fashion, call Mauve Management and Entertainment at 817-8497 or fax 817-7907.

VFI LAUNCHES PROMO

From the makers of Winner Corned Beef, Virginia Food Inc. presents the mega promo of the year Winner Mega Promo Instant Lata-Cash and Raffle. Shown, from left, are VFI president Felix Tiukinhoy, VFI marketing services personnel Jennifer Togan of Infinite Ideas, the advertising agency of VFI and Icel Argana, and VFI's vice president for sales and marketing (Luzon) Hermenigildo Atienza III.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002
'02

BERBA INDUCTS PFI OFFICERS

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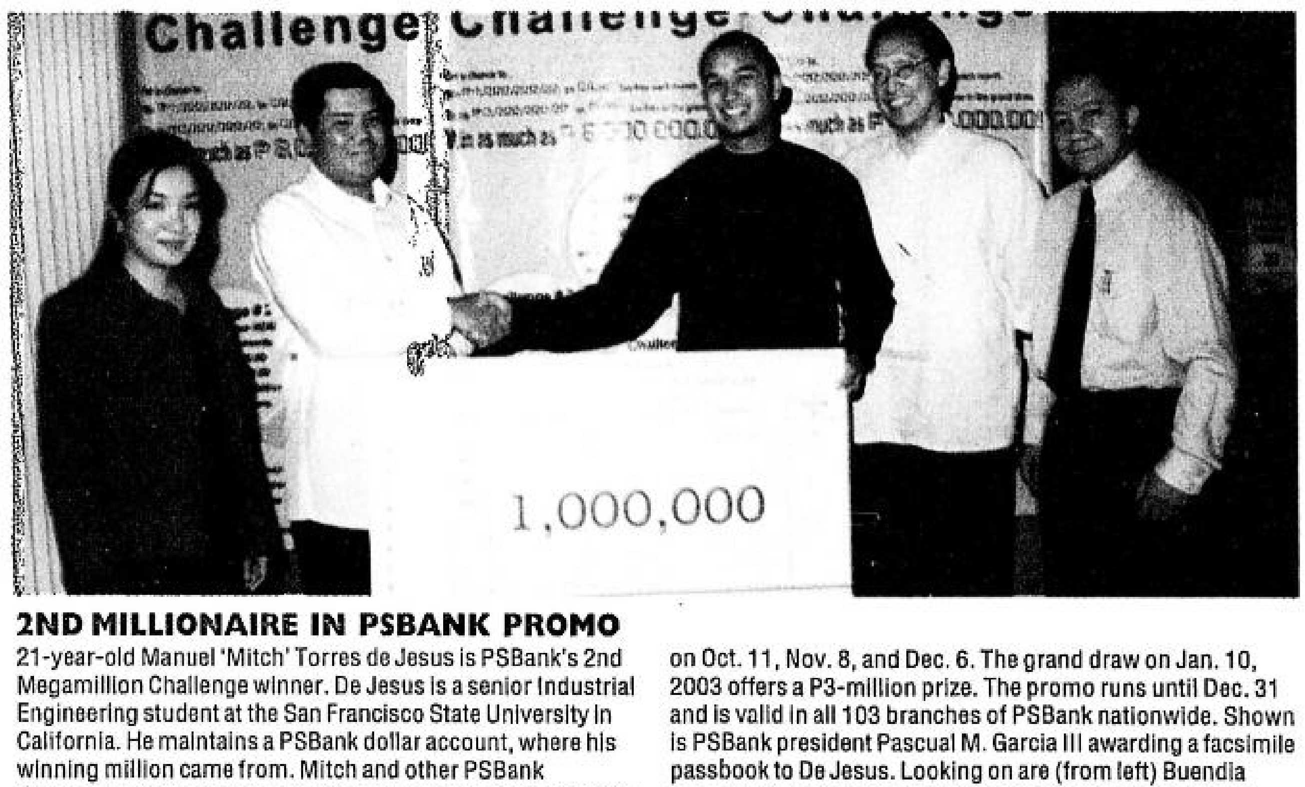

2ND MILLIONAIRE IN PSBANK PROMO

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BITS Clips

Blims stages holiday collection

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Realty brokers' review ongoing

ASPIRING real estate practitioners will have the opportunity to become licensed real estate brokers as the Department of Trade and Industry, through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection headed by lawyer Ma. Teresa Arao-Mahiwo scheduled a licensure examination on Nov. 24, 2002. To completely prepare prospective examinees for the licensure exam, Urban Institute of Real Estate (681-0928) will conduct a comprehensive real estate seminar (CRES) and review on Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, and Nov. 9 and 16 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at the second floor Joni's Bakeshop, Arnaiz Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Experts and authorities in their respective fields are lined up to lecture on the subjects prescribed by DTI. For more information, call 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

RP competes in 4th ASC

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Umed reaches out to docs with Interactive case confabs

TRUE to its thrust as a continuing medical education program (CME) concerned with improving the knowledge and skills of medical professionals, Unilab Medical Education and Development (Umed) reaches out to doctors in the provinces by conducting interactive case conferences to help teach them in their specific areas of practice.

Under the program, facilitators who are highly trained medical professionals, diplomates and specialists are sent to the provinces with practical teachings that are relevant and suited to the day-to-day needs of the practitioners.

Asthma, childhood immunization, and pediatric infectious diseases are among the topics taken in the interactive case conferences. They are done in modules with the facilitators leading the participants through materials contained in workbooks developed by the Umed faculty. Iloilo, Cebu, Dumaguete and General Santos were some of the venues of these recent conferences.

Questions and issues are raised in the course of the sessions, resulting in a rich exchange of experiences and sharing of ideas among the facilitators and participants. Hence, interactive case conferences are not only consultative in nature, they become venues where both parties learn medical lessons from each other.

The participants in the past conferences were one in agreeing that the comprehensive presentation, practicality of the discussion, exchange of views, informative workbooks, shared experiences and highly interactive approach were keys to the credibility and success of the Umed interactive case conferences. More importantly, since their practical needs were met, ultimately it was their patients who benefited.

GLOBELINES IN MARIKINA OPENS

Globelines, the landline telephone service of Globe Telecom, has recently opened its new Globelines Payments and Services Center in Marikina. The new Globelines Center in Marikina is envisioned to be among the first of many new Globelines centers that will be deployed in areas in the country that are served by Globe Telecom's landline telephone service. The centers also aim to provide Globelines subscribers with convenient sales, payment and customer service facilities. Shown is Globe Telecom Wireline centers head Tina Ortiz (2nd from left), Globe Telecom head/COO for Wireline business Gil Tenio (center) and Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando (2nd from right) leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the opening. With them are Monsignor Arnel Lagarejos, who led the blessing of the center, and Globe Telecom VP for Wireline business Ramon Pineda.

ESC PARTNERS WITH CITIBANK

Earth+Style Corp. (ESC), the lifestyle property developer, together with My Home and Family Reader magazines, recently partnered with global banking leader Citibank for Citibank's Gateway to Good Life promo, which brings matters discussed in the Smooth Parenting series to villages around the metropolis. Through the promo, ESC will accompany Citibank in its visits to several villages where matters relating to health, fashion and lifestyle will be discussed. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) ESC's internal sales head Lolli Domingo, Citibank's AVP for events, media and alliances Carmina Gigi Rodriguez, ESC's corporate communications head and My Home publisher Joy Basilio. Witnessing the event are (back row, from left) My Home associate publisher Earl Estrera and Family Reader associate publisher Ria Yap.

UP studes go 'Mania!'

RECENTLY, the Beatles' spirit overshadowed the UP-Manila Campus when Snafu (the Beatles' sound-and-look-alike band) played back Beatles songs for this year's UP Band Festival UP Mania with the theme "Let the Beat Go On" at Baluarte Dilao, Muralla, Intramuros. The event was organized by the student council of the University of the Philippines-Manila and Mauve Management and Entertainment, in cooperation with presentor San Miguel Beer. The event was considered the prelaunch event for SMB's Oktoberfest.

UP Mania was also brought in part by Monterey Foods, Absolute Mineral Water, Coca-Cola, Jack N' Jill Potato Chips, Cream-O Sandwich Cookies, XO Butter Caramel and Hawk Bag.

UP Mania was participated in by UP's best campus bands Funny Bunnies, Drunken Master, Jah Acolytes, MU Band, Joint Play, Fire on 45, Switch, Spankies Delight and No Left Turn. Rapper/poet Syke blazed the mic as the event's solo guest performer. Gorgeous, bubbly and sexy Mutya ng Pilipinas 2002 winner Miriam Chui (now "MTB" regular Thursday host) and first runner-up Kristine Caballero hypnotized the partying guys with their killing smiles, titillating moves and mind-boggling punch lines.

UP boys and gals had more fun through exciting games, and received giveaways from generous sponsors. For concerts, events, movies and fashion, call Mauve Management and Entertainment at 817-8497 or fax 817-7907.

VFI LAUNCHES PROMO

From the makers of Winner Corned Beef, Virginia Food Inc. presents the mega promo of the year Winner Mega Promo Instant Lata-Cash and Raffle. Shown, from left, are VFI president Felix Tiukinhoy, VFI marketing services personnel Jennifer Togan of Infinite Ideas, the advertising agency of VFI and Icel Argana, and VFI's vice president for sales and marketing (Luzon) Hermenigildo Atienza III.

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Challenge
1,000,000

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'Asian taste' still befuddles mobile phone firms

By Raul C. Dancel

SHANGHAI—Despite its huge size and generally investor-friendly climate, China's mobile phone market is proving to be a tough nut to crack even for billion-dollar companies like Germany's Siemens AG, and one of the biggest reasons, ironically, has nothing to do with economics: Asia's fickle fashion sense.

"Every country has a certain fashion. Finding out what is good is the key to succeeding in the region, but we have yet to catch the Asian taste," Charles Schanen, chief financial officer of Siemens Shanghai Mobile Communications Ltd., said in a news briefing here.

Fashion is a hit-and-miss affair, he says. There's no surefire formula that can guarantee shotgun success, especially in a region as culturally diverse as Asia. What may work for one country may be a flop in another. Even in one country, what may work for one region may not necessarily be effective in another. This is especially the case with mobile phones.

Varying tastes

Asians tend to choose their phones using wildly varying standards. Take the case of the clam shell-type cellular phones. While these phones haven't really taken off in the Philippines, Chinese users, especially women, have fallen head over heels in love with them. For some telecom phone companies in China, having a clam shell-type model may even mean the difference between flying and faltering.

Then there's the issue of familiarity. Filipinos prefer models that they already know how to operate, which explains the popularity of units produced by Finnish telecom giant Nokia.

Nokia has set the standards as far as mobile phone interface is concerned. Filipino users are already familiar with the way a Nokia phone works. Getting them to use a phone that requires a different set of procedures on sending a text message is like asking them to swim in a pool of sharks. The Chinese, on the other hand, are always on the lookout for new features, even if they have to deal with a steep learning curve. The issue for them mostly is whether they have the newest model available in their hands, never mind if they have to navigate through a maze of commands before they can send a text message.

"It's not necessarily the features," Siemens' Schanen said. He said the digital camera was a "fashionable feature" that flew in Japan despite the very lousy quality of the images. "Everybody had to have one." he said.

Coca-Cola of cell phones

It also helps that some companies have already attached their names to a reputation that, Schanen admits, is Nokia's biggest advantage.

"Nokia has been successful because it's the Coca-Cola brand. Nokia is equated with the cell phone," he said.

Schanen said the Chinese market, in particular, has become "volatile" because there are too many models being introduced one after another. There are currently 36 players in China with 250 different models.

"If you have 250 models, how can you differentiate yourself?" Schanen asks.

The multinationals still control a large part of the market, but the locals are steadily gaining a significant share. There are about 18 local companies accounting for 18 percent of the market, and these companies are the ones quick in introducing new models.

The problem with that is that each time a new model hits the market, it easily eats up 3 percent of the market.

"If a model has a 0.5-percent market share, it is surviving. You bring in a new model, it grabs 3 percent and it takes it from somebody else," Schanen said.

"Some of the brands will disappear if market forces are fairly at play," he added. "Some will survive only through government support."

A CONSUMER checks out new models and gadgets at a mass retail outlet. Most mobile phone firms are still looking for that surefire formula that can guarantee shotgun success in Asia.

Quality over style

Siemens is itself struggling with the "new-model-manila" that has hit China. Siemens hasn't introduced a new model in a year, and it's hurting its bottom line. It is set to roll out a new clam shell-type phone this year and is currently working on its own digital camera model.

Schanen is confident, however, that ultimately, consumers will see the value in choosing quality and functionality over style and form.

Siemens, through SSMC, produces about 14 million to 15 million units a year. It is currently China's third-biggest mobile phone company.

The company is spending some $310 million to expand its capacity with the intent of boosting its market share. The move is part of its $1.5-billion investment program announced last year for the Asia-Pacific market.

In this second round of investment, Siemens plans to spend about $60 million to boost annual production capacity of mobile devices in Shanghai from 10 million to 14 million units.

The German telecommunications company also plans to pour $250 million into research and development by mid-2003, extending its three newly established "Centers of Competence."

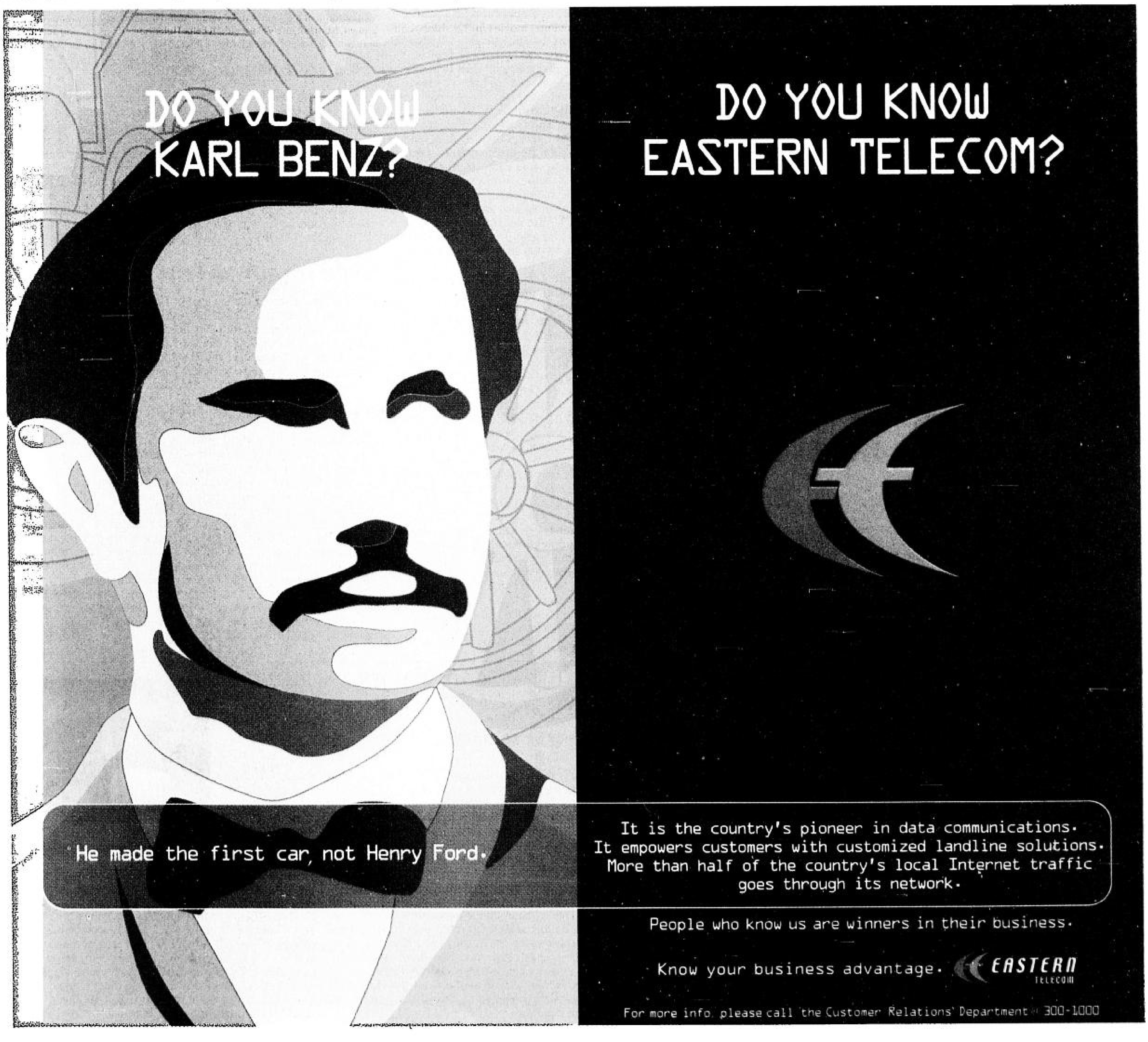
Ultimately, these moves will add 320 jobs to the company's operations in Beijing, Shanghai and Singapore.

In the mobile phone market, Siemens currently holds about 12 percent of the market in Asia Pacific and 13 percent in China, the biggest single market for mobile phones in Asia Pacific. In the mobile infrastructure market, Siemens has an 11-percent share in Asia Pacific and a 14 percent share in China.

Still, the main concern is finding that elusive Asian taste.

One fashion that is likely to consumer China like it did in the Philippines is short messaging, more popularly known in the Philippines as "texting".

China Mobile Group, China's largest mobile service provider, anticipates its users will send some 40 billion messages this year.



He made the first car, not Henry Ford.

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Grape phytochemicals link to good health

PHYTOCHEMICALS are biological active substances within plants that are responsible for giving plants their odor, color and flavor. Phytochemicals also contribute to the plant's self-defense system by protecting it from pest, viruses, bacteria and excessive sunlight.

Scientific research conducted over the last 20 years indicates that people whose diets include an abundance of fruits and vegetables have lower rates of certain disease. Hundreds or even thousands, of phytochemicals are present in fruits, vegetables, grains and some herbs.

Grapes have long been associated with good health and always with great taste. Current research indicates that grapes offer a unique phytochemical profile that includes significant antioxidant potential. Certain phytochemicals found in grapes may contribute to the prevention of cancer and heart disease.

The very first phytonutrients identified by researchers as present in grapes are resveratrol, quercetin, anthocyanin and catechin. Resveratrol, found mainly in the skins of grapes, which helps grape plants fight off fungi, has been linked to low incidences of coronary heart disease. Thus, researchers believe that resveratrol plays a role in the reduction of heart disease, and exhibits anti-inflammatory properties. It has also shown the capacity to fight cancer cells that cause breast, liver and colon cancer in laboratory experiments.

For years, research and popular interest have focused the beneficial effects of red wine and grape juice on the heart. Such findings have encouraged a lot of people to include grape juice and moderate amounts of red wine in their diets.

Recently, a research study conducted in University of Connecticut showed that fresh table grapes from California contain the same-heart protective compounds as those found in grape juice and red wine. Both wine and fresh grapes contain compounds called polyphenols, a class of phytonutrient.

"Several investigators now believe fresh grapes and red wine are equally cardioprotective," said Dr. Dipak K. Das, principal investigator on the study. "In the past I studied individual grape polyphenols which are antioxidants and highly cardioprotective, and now worked with whole grapes, which have the same effect."

The California Table Grape Commission is actively marketing and communicating the health benefits of eating fresh grapes and living a healthy lifestyle. Ongoing since Aug. 27 is the California Table Grapes Health Station Mall Tour. This highly successful consumer promotion, now on its 4th year, will be on its final week, moving to SM Megamall until Oct. 9.

This mobile health station entitles customers of California Table Grapes to free health check-ups consisting of body mass index, blood pressure check-ups, a flexibility test and cardio-vascular fitness.

The wide availability of California grapes in the Philippines makes it easier for Filipinos to reap the health benefits of eating grapes. They are available in a palette of beautiful bright colors ranging from pale green to ruby red to lustrous blue-black.

Grapes will remain fresh when stored at temperature of about 32 degrees F with relatively high humidity. At home, refrigerate until ready to use, then rinse with cool water, and enjoy.

ALASKA SPONSORS PARENTING CONFAB

Alaska Powdered Filled Milk celebrates parenthood as it sponsors the 1st Philippine Parenting Convention from Oct. 26 to 29 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio. Alaska helps to further strengthen family ties and allow parents to participate in high-impact, interactive workshops using the latest training methodologies. Shown is the contract signing between Alaska and Business Works. From left are Fidez Ramos, media director of Logika Inc., Bien Fernando, marketing director of Alaska Milk Corp., Anthony Pangilinan, president of Business Works, and Cay Chavez, brand manager, Alaska Powdered Filled Milk.

HP RAFFLE WINNER

Jun Juntilla (right), supplies business manager of HP Philippines, awards the major prize of a computer package to Michael P. Lim of Cobota for the first draw of the HP Print Your Fantasy raffle promo. Buyers of original HP inkjet print cartridges have a chance to win other major prizes, including home theater systems, Compaq iPAQ Pocket PCs and audio players, and a brand new car. The grand draw is on Oct. 9.

PSME, DENR, ASME MEET FOR MOA

The Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers (PSME) recently met with DENR Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez for a series of collaborative efforts in the memorandum of agreement between DENR, PSME, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (Asme) on environmental management and pollution control. The meeting was held at the awarding of the Poster-Making Contest of the Ozone Philippine Desk Office Sept. 23 at the SM City, North Edsa, Quezon City. The MOA was signed Oct. 2. Shown at the meeting with Alvarez (center) were (from left) engineers Fernando Meliton Cala, PSME national secretary, Roberto Lozada, PSME national president, Mario Gilbuena, past president of PSME Mandaluyong chapter, and Director Julian Amador of the Environmental Management Bureau.

ACWO 10TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Asean Confederation of Women Organizations (Acwo), the regional grouping of the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP), Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam working towards the full integration of women in development processes, held its 10th General Assembly and Conference July 5 to 8 in Singapore. The General Assembly is held every two years. This year, the president, Anamah Tan of the Singapore Council of Women Organizations, hosted the event. The delegation from the NCWP was comprised of its president Myrna Yao, governor Baby Ortiz, Dr. Ramona Raneses, Ana Cawaling, Lili Adina, and Marietta Primicias-Goco.

TTSP SIGNS MOA WITH CPVDC

Tsuneishi Technical Services (Phils.) Inc. officials signed an MOA with Asiatown IT Park developer Cebu Property Ventures and Development Corp. for a three-year lease contract on two modules of the e-Office building. The e-Office is a row of four modules of 1,008 sq. m. each. The e-Office building addresses the demand of IT locators for immediate space to lease as they build up their resources. The 24-hectare IT Park located at Barangay Apas, Cebu City was declared by Presidential Proclamation as a Special Economic Zone early last year after it was granted a permit as an IT Park by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) in April 2000. Shown are (from left) CPVDC AVP Tetta Baad, CPVDC COO Francis Monera, TTSP GM Toshiro Shimobayashi and TTSP business development and information management systems manager Segismundo Exaltacion Jr. Standing, from left, are CHI Construction Management division head Gil Carsido, Asiatown IT Park administrator Raul Mananquil, and TTSP machinery/electric design group leader Albino Tesaluna Jr.

Committee studying sign language use

THE NATIONAL Sign Language Committee, chaired by the Philippine Federation of the Deaf, is currently collecting data on the use of sign language in the key areas of education, interpreting, sign language instruction, and media, in preparation for the submission of a "Status Report on the Use of Sign Language in the Philippines". The two-year project, which was initiated November 2001 following a dialogue with then DepEd Secretary Raul S. Roco, is a historical undertaking for the Filipino Deaf community since it is the first time that a study of a nationwide scope is being conducted. The study is also spearheaded by deaf leaders, including deaf field researchers, regional representatives and contacts. Phase I of the fieldwork (Luzon) has already yielded data from public and private schools, church and religious organizations and NGOs, all utilizing sign language in their programs, ministries and activities. Phase II (Visayas and Mindanao) is slated to begin by October.

The project is funded in part by the Gallaudet University Alumni Association (Washington DC), Sapporo Kita-Ku Association of the Deaf, Kumamoto Association of the Deaf, and the Mita ASL Club (Japan). Communications and technical support to the committee is provided by the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People, and the Philippine Deaf Resource Center. Numerous deaf and hearing volunteers comprising the core team in Manila and the rest of the committee in regions all over the country also lent support.

Raphael V. Domingo, president of the federation and chair of the committee, views the project as a critical first step in documenting the language-related issues of the Filipino deaf community. The data shall provide a basis for policymakers to formulate comprehensive and significant solutions to longstanding problems in education, employment and accessibility.

For interested volunteers, or for other information, call the committee through the Catholic Ministry to Deaf People at 426-1116 or the Philippine Deaf Resource Center at 921-8521.

BITS Clips

7-Eleven at SM Pampanga

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. continues its expansion to the provinces with the opening of its 165th 7-Eleven outlet in SM Pampanga. Located at the Fiesta Strip of the newly opened mall, the 7-Eleven outlet would be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The store is designed to serve the needs of mall shoppers with its spacious eating area, well-lighted counters, and a wide variety of product offerings. This is Philippine Seven's second mall-based outlet following the success of the 7-Eleven Express in Farmer's Plaza.

Pediatric neurology at UP-PGH

A SIMPLIFIED and practical approach to the diagnosis and management of children with neurologic complaints will be provided to medical and paramedical practitioners in a pediatric subspecialty course to be conducted by the UP-PGH from Oct. 8 to 10 at the Manila Midtown Hotel in Ermita, Manila. The three-day course titled "Shaking off Pins and Needles in Pediatric Neurology" is the 2002 subspecialty postgraduate course offered by the Child Foundation of the UP-PGH Department of Pediatrics. More details are available through program coordinators Drs. Edward Vincent S. Faustino and James Philip A. Cruz at 524-0892 or 521-8450 local 2101, or fax 526-0150.

Finex seminar for SMEs

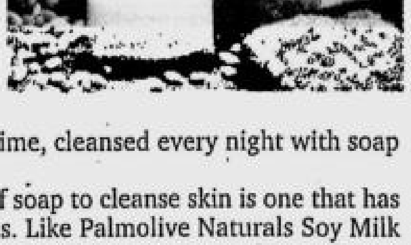
THE SMALL and medium enterprises committee of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) invites the public to a seminar on "Debt and Equity Financing for SMEs" at the DBP Auditorium, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati on Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. Meanwhile, the sports and recreation committee invites Finex members and affiliates to the Finex Week Tennis Tournament from 6 p.m. onwards on Oct. 9, Wednesday, at the Lower Tennis

Engine protector, fuel saver

DURING these times of rising fuel and maintenance costs, an engine treatment formula from the United States is giving local motorists big relief. Dubbed as "the friction eliminator", the Uniq Engine Treatment is a preventive engine maintenance and treatment formula. It ensures fuel savings of up to 30 percent, increases engine power and performance up to 30 percent, reduces engine wear by as much as 400 percent, reduces engine friction by as much as 800 percent, reduces the car's operating temperature by as much as 40 percent, controls noxious emissions by as much as 20 percent, improves oil viscosity by as much as 60 percent, and ensures engine maintenance savings by as much as 400 percent. It guarantees real engine protection up to 24,000 km and is 100-percent free of harmful acids, making it environment-friendly. For more information, log on to www.uniqpoint.com.

Product FILES

The secret to naturally clear, rosy skin



WHILE it is true that make-up does a good job of hiding small blemishes, this is not the end-all be-all of getting flawless-looking skin. There are actually ways to achieve that natural healthy looking glow. Instead of temporarily hiding those imperfections with makeup, skin that looks better longer can be achieved with a simple time-tested regimen.

A healthy lifestyle helps in maintaining your skin's healthy glow. Eating well, getting plenty of sleep, exercising regularly and managing your stress levels are the best way to maintain the appearance of your skin. Eating a balanced diet is a vital part of creating a healthy complexion. As much as possible, stay away from excessive sun exposure, junk food, and alcohol as these may further aggravate skin problems.

Above all that, a good maintenance program with gentle products is needed to cleanse and refresh the skin. Skin should be cleansed in the mornings to remove dead skin and oils discharged at night, then again at bedtime, cleansed every night with soap and water.

A good choice of soap to cleanse skin is one that has natural ingredients. Like Palmolive Naturals Soy Milk and Oats. That's because it has two natural ingredients: Soy Milk, which has rich nutrients that carefully nurture your skin, and Oats which are known to be natural exfoliants that help remove old skin cells, reviving your skin's clear and rosy glow. It also has Germ Protection to help keep germs at bay, helping to prevent skin problems from erupting in the future. So there is no need to hide behind a mask of make-up. Just go ahead and show off your naturally beautiful clear and rosy skin!

'Jewels of bathroom,' Benz of shower fixtures

AMONG local and international architects, interior designers and building contractors, the brand Hansgrohe (pronounced hans-grow) has become synonymous with German quality showers that come in various designer forms—overhead, hand-held, and a combination of both with jet streams that massage the whole body.

"A Hansgrohe shower, in fact, is considered a jewel in high-end homes, hotels and spas," said Philippe Grohe, business unit manager of Axor, the top-of-the-line product group of Hansgrohe.

A grandson of company founder Hans Grohe, Philippe noted that the company started from very humble beginnings. His grandfather started as a traveling master weaver who finally settled in Schiltach, Germany. It was in this town that the itinerant weaver learned the craft of metal pressing.

"My grandfather set up his own metal pressing business on April 1, 1900 with only one assistant," said Philippe. "In their small metal pressing plant, they manufactured cases for alarm clocks sold in the domestic market."

In 1901 Hans Grohe acquired a wooden shed where a metal pressing plant was housed. With the help of two men, he produced parts for clocks, brass pans, lights for barn lanterns, canopy trays, galvanized roofing tips and products for household plumbing applications.

Said Philippe: "My grandfather moved about in a bicycle calling on his customers who were mostly plumbers and pipelayers in the Black Forest."

By 1905, the Hans Grohe Company added some new product lines and was manufacturing anchor plates for stovepives, anchor plates for faucets, shower heads, float balls and canopy trays for hanging lamps.

"My grandfather was the manager, press operator, traveling salesman and bookkeeper all in one. My grandmother and aunt Lenchen packaged the finished goods," said Philippe.

The two World Wars disrupted the operation of the company. World War II was particularly devastating because there was lack of raw materials.

Nevertheless, the company managed to resume production and introduced new shower products and faucets made from aluminum and zinc.

With a workforce of 100 men, the company even produced key chains, bracelets, necklaces and dog chains. "Even aluminum pots and bowls," said Philippe. "My grandfather died in 1955 at the age of 84. My father became a major partner of the company, which from the 1950s to the present embarked on extensive product design innovations that led to the wide range of products that we now carry. I call them the jewels of the bathroom," he noted.

The business unit, which Philippe now heads, produces the Axor shower fixtures, some of which were designed by renowned industrial designer Philippe Starck. "Starck made history with classic designs that have become household bywords. He has given the world lemon juicers that look like space aliens, toothbrushes from outer space and TV sets carved from cork," said Philippe.

He added that the Hansgrohe Axor collection represent a lifestyle.

Design-wise, they are richer although Starck derived a number of them from the basic water pump of yesteryears.

"The Starck shower, for instance, has simple lines but with it, one can switch from a hand shower to a tub spout," said Philippe. "With Starck as designer, everything could be so different."

Philippe noted that Hansgrohe and its product lines have been in the Philippine market since 1994. It has since captured 2 to 3 percent of the very high-end markets of Metro Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

In the future, shower fixtures and products will continue to be elegant but functional. They will come in geometrical forms with square or straight lines. "The trend is moving toward the square forms," he concluded.

GROHE

HERMOSO

CEO shares business and banking expertise

HIS resumé reveals solid backgrounds in business and banking. At one point, he even co-owned a successful business and bank himself. So what's a long-time CEO like Hernando "Tito" Hermoso doing back in school?

"It's connected to the youth and I was trying to discover my creativity," says Hermoso, who was chair of the Economics Department of the former Jose Rizal College (now a University) from 2001-2002 before assuming his current position, that of assistant dean in JRU's College of Professional Education.

Hermoso certainly has much to contribute to the country's oldest business college, an institution that was founded in 1919 as the Far Eastern College School of Accounts, Commerce and Finance.

Today, JRU's College of Professional education offers Bachelor of Commercial Science degrees in Computer Science, Accountancy, Management, Finance, Secretarial Science and Marketing, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree Major in Economics.

"Our other main role is to provide support courses to the College of Secondary Education and the College of Technical Science," says the assistant dean. "The aim is to produce the future professionals of our growing global standard service economy."

The business and banking expert, who finished his master's degree in International and Development Economics at Yale University, couldn't have joined JRU at a better time. Since becoming a university in October 2000, JRU now offers, among other new degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

Real need

"A response to a real need," is how executive vice president Vincent Fabella describes the education innovations in JRU. "Our own research shows a specific demand for IT professionals with sound business skills. So we have revised our IT programs to include groundwork in management, finance and HR. JRU will continue to revise, revamp and expand whenever needed, to remain able to do our part in adding value to national development."

Meanwhile, Hermoso is showing students and faculty exactly what it means to be "professional." He visits the quadrangle and classrooms regularly to find out what his constituents' pressing concerns are. He also updates teachers and students with the latest books, syllabi and seminar products, and has initiated plans for a career placement organization and improved enrollment scheme.

"My vision for JRU," he says, "is to enhance its accessibility so that working students and financially challenged families can have a college education any time they wish at a pace that suits their availability to learn and/or pay. I also envision JRU to showcase the latest teaching facilities as an eye-opener for people to get used to what is cutting-edge. I would also like JRU to be the first college in the minds of professionals and practitioners whenever they feel the urge to teach. Lastly, I would like JRU to be the first off the bat for new trends in specialized courses to meet the need of local and global employers."

"It is my belief," concludes Hermoso, "that this is consistent with the JRU mission-statement: To produce great men and women modelled after the most learned patron, Jose Rizal."

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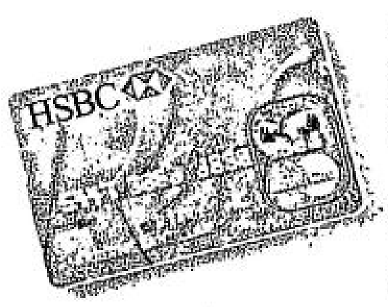

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Show biz folks, coffee expert and technical guy spell a Tavern

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SHOW BIZ people who know how to handle their finances belong to a rare breed. Rarer still are those in the industry who have business know-how.

Fortunately some of these show biz people got together to embark on a multimillion project—the reopening of Tavern on the Square.

Talent manager Girlie Rodis, who recently joined the Ayala Group via Talentworks Asia (a talent management outfit), says Ayala called her up offering her a space at the New Greenbelt.

"When I thought of a venue, the first thing that came to my mind was Tavern, so I immediately called Sandra (Chavez, talent manager and agent of Sharon Cuneta)," recalls GR, as she is more popularly known.

Sandra was one of the owners of the first Tavern, together with Chit Juan of Figaro coffee and Rose Alberto, who used to be with the Regent of Manila.'

Tavern on the Square was a popular music bar and restaurant of the '80s at the basement of the LPL Towers in Makati where the country's newest talents made their debuts.

These included Zsa Zsa Padilla, Gary Valenciano, Music and Magic, Side A, Cicada, and Capuccino.

It closed in 1986 after the Edsa revolution.

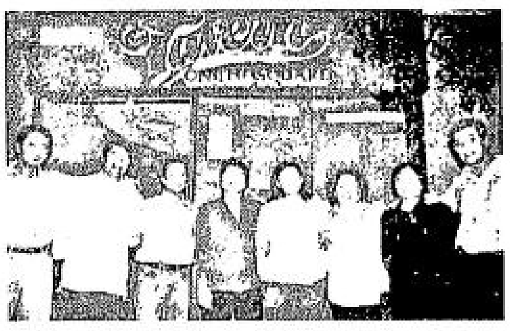
Roles

Sandra says after GR called, she immediately contacted her previous partners in Tavern to ask if they would be interested to reopen the lounge.

Rose Alberto declined but allowed her former partners to reopen. Chit Juan was a go, and Sandra brought her lawyer—brother, Mitch Chavez to be the corporate counsel. Mitch owns shares but is not a director.

They invited two others— Rene Cruz, who is engaged in the business of lights and sounds rentals to join and to handle the technical aspects of the business; and Wyngard Tracy, another talent manager, who handles Side A, Freestyle and Basil Valdez. Rose Alberto was given honorary shares.

The assignments of the six partners are clear: Chit is in charge of finance and operations, Sandra is in charge of entertainment, GR handles events, marketing and promotions, Rene is the technical engineer; and Wyngard is also in charge of entertainment and bringing in talents.



THE PEOPLE behind the new Tavern on the Square.

Sandra says they try to meet as often as possible although it is difficult because of their busy schedules.

So far they have managed to work within their schedules and they take turns managing the business when a partner is away.

Not on a whim

Chit adds that the decision to reopen Tavern, however, was not just decided on a whim.

Chit says they conducted an informal research about the needs of the market they are targeting which is the young adults of today.

Sandra adds that they envisioned Tavern to be a place "to do special shows with big names in an intimate place.

The Tavern Café is also envisioned to be a "place where contracts are signed" says Chit. The shows at Tavern usually start at 9 in the evening and for Oct. 8 and 9 they are featuring a special show of Lani Misalucha and Louie Ocampo.

Tavern has a capacity of almost 300 and they expect the place to also being an events venue.

Total investment cost for the place reached over P10 million but they point out that since they tapped experts in the various areas required for such a business, they were able to cut expenses.

Unlike in the past where the ambience of the place was French Moroccan, the Tavern of today is now more casual, says Chit.

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P29

New York Philharmonic with piano prodigy in Manila

BOY wonder Lang Lang

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

THOSE who want to experience first-rate excitement in music should better take note of the big events this month. The Vienna Boys Choir was back in Manila last week, but the bigger event is the return engagement of the New York Philharmonic at the CCP on Oct. 18 and 19, with Chinese pianist Lang Lang as the soloist in Rach 2 (again!), courtesy of Citibank.

Another big event not to be missed is the Toyota Classics concert on Oct. 25 at the Meralco Theater, featuring the Cadaques Chamber Orchestra of Spain with two for

NEW YORK/ p.D4

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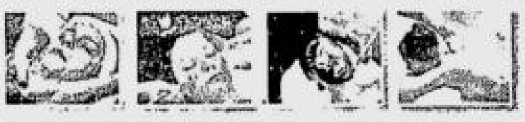

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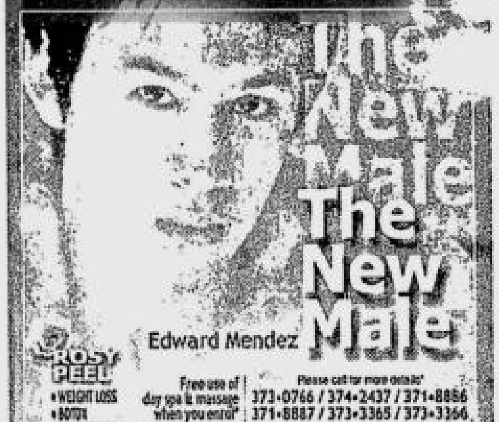

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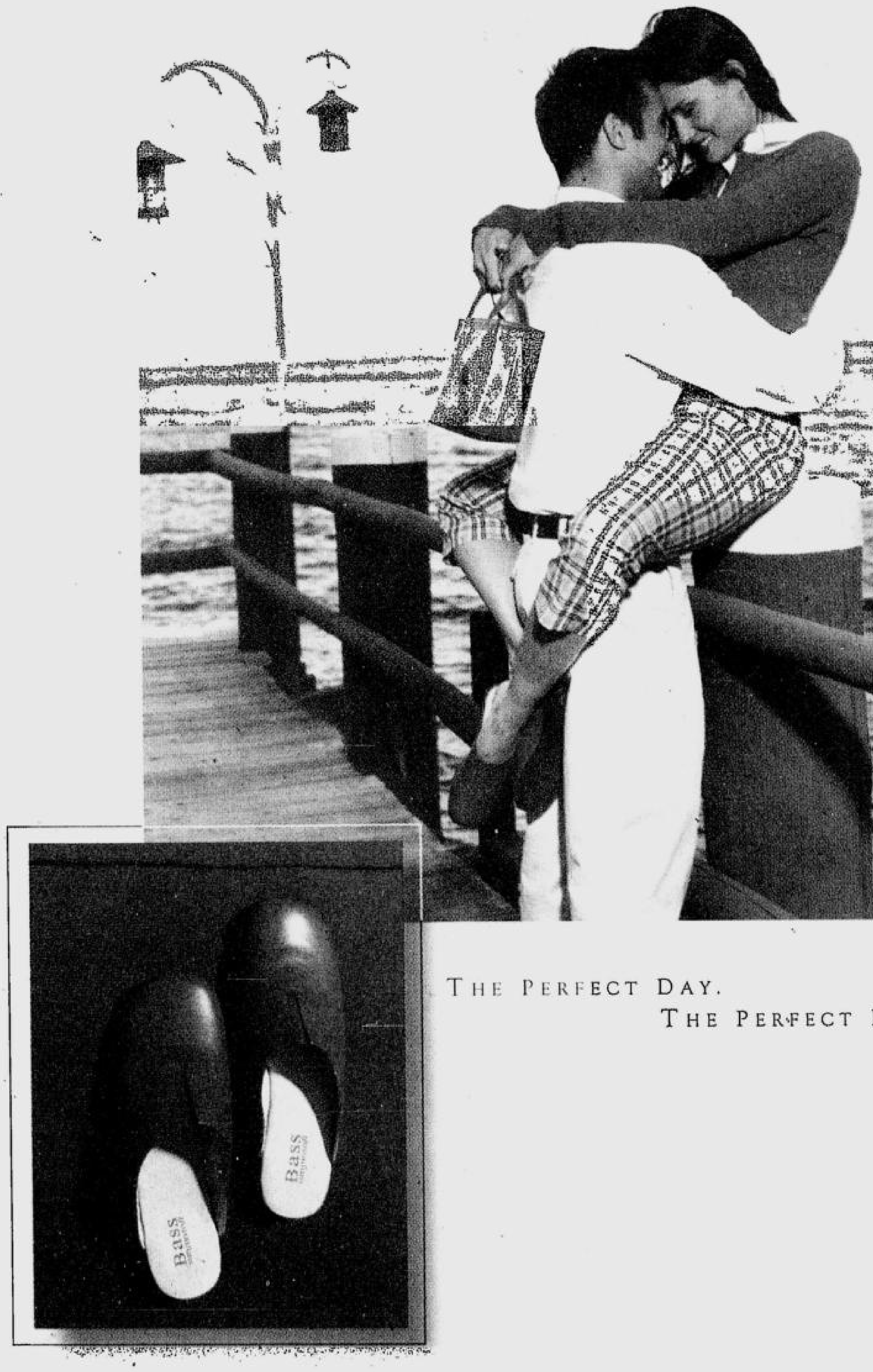

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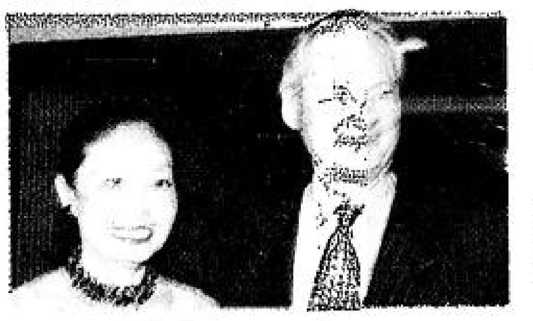

NEW Zealand Ambassador Theo and Kessara Arnold

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja and Jaime Laya

Mexican mariachis and Venezuelan 'compas'

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

LEAVE it to the Mexicans.

Instead of having the usual speech and toast, they had mariachis brought over on their National Day. And when most of the guests had left, Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard** and a couple of others, like Brazilian Charge d'Affaires **Carlos Carvalho**, took to the mic.

It was an enjoyable evening made more so by the special attention that Hyatt food and beverage man **Abel Nolasco** gave to the buffet, with delicious enchiladas. The margaritas were very potent. If you survived the first, it would be time to go home!

The lady ambassador from France, **Renee Veyret**, was *tres chic* in her Yves St. Laurent black-and-red ensemble. We ran into former President **Fidel Ramos**, the Philippine-Mexican Business Council's **Raul** and **Menchu Concepcion**, former Ambassador **Johnny** and **Pilina Rocha** (the two gentlemen were recently awarded the Aguila Asteca Medal); **Tessie Luz**, who's raising funds for the New York Philharmonic's performance on Oct. 20 (make sure to reserve your tickets now—they're in demand); newly appointed consul to Belize **Helen Ong**, British Ambassador **Paul** and **Carolyn Dimond**, Consul **Evie Costa**, Swedish Ambassador **Ulf Hakansson**, Indian Ambassador **Nevrekha Sharma**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** and **Maurice Mannakee**.

Overheard: Where did this Presidential Fokker plane, which needs P150-million worth of repairs, come from? We thought **Estrada** said he was bumming off his rich and famous friends?

Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** and Consul **Juan Goldnick** were deep at work for the art exhibit and concert at the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences, which turned out to be a stupendous evening of classical guitar-playing by **Butch Roxas** with tenor **Randy Gilongo** singing Venezuelan songs with the *compas*—

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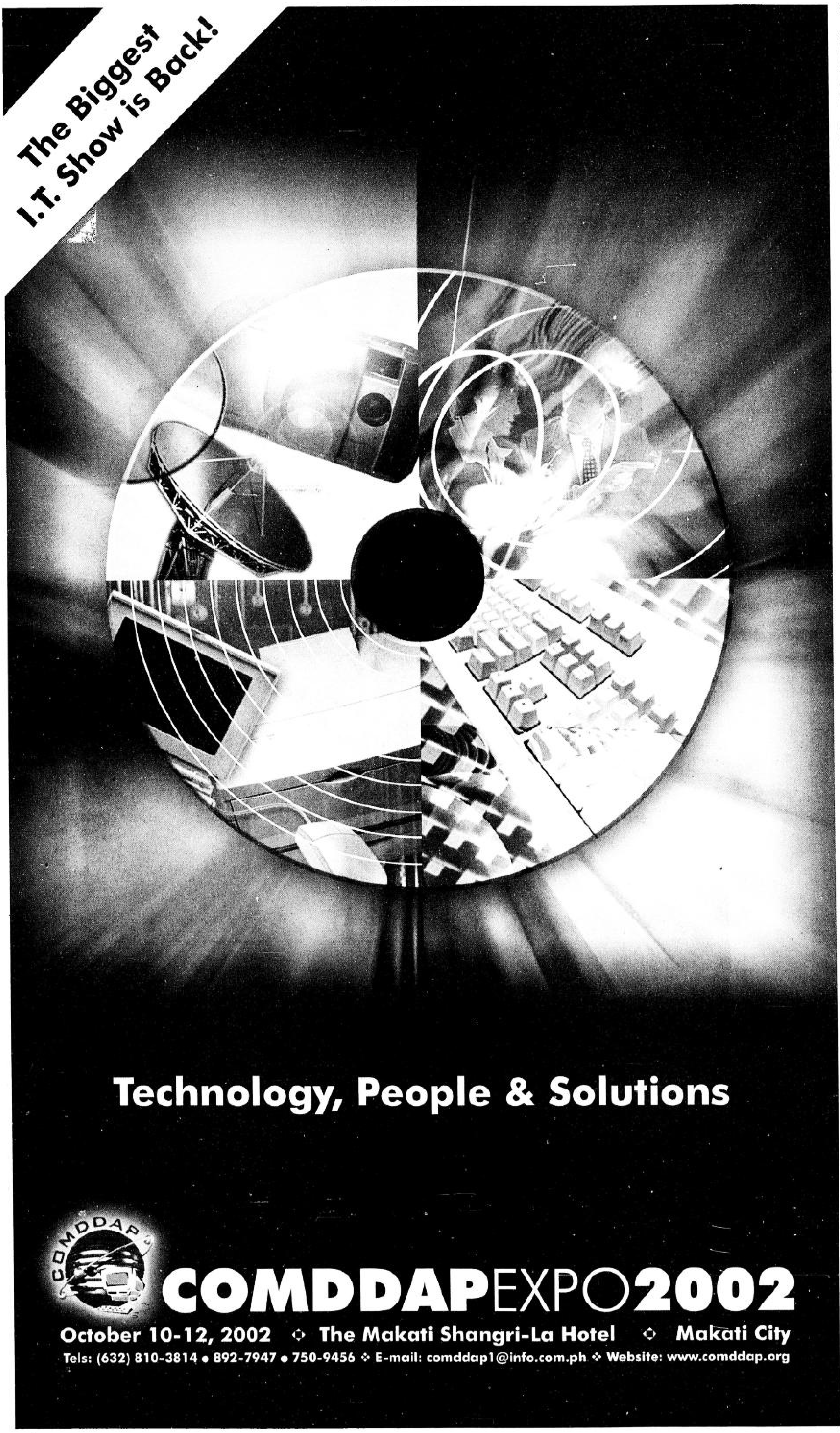
MR. and Ms Carlos Torres

CUBAN Ambassador and Mme. Ramon Alonso

JUAN Rocha

CARLOS Carvalho

INDIAN Ambassador Nevrekha Sharma, Helen Ong and French Ambassador Renée Veyret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The Portuguese Festival in Manila

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva

THE RELATIONS between our peoples date back to the beginning of the 16th century. In 1511, the great Portuguese governor of India, Alfonso de Albuquerque, conquered Malacca; and the first European to describe the Philippines ("Luzones"), who went to Malacca to do business, was the Portuguese Tome Pires in his work "Treaty about the East." Speaking highly of the Filipino settlers who lived in and around Malacca, Pires wrote: "they are useful people; they are hardworking and good merchants."

If the first European who left a written work about the Philippines was a Portuguese, they were also the first to design charts of Southeast Asia and the Philippines, in sketches and maps made by Francisco Rodriguez in Malacca in 1513, eight years before the arrival of Magellan in the Philippines.

Therefore, Portuguese and Filipinos have known each other for a long time. They share a common Latin heritage and the same religion. Both countries are maritime-oriented, where the sea plays an important role in the life of their respective peoples. Both countries experienced a similar history during the 20th century, with periods of dictatorship; and both have numerous and important communities living abroad (the Portuguese, 4 million, Filipinos 6-7 million).

In spite of these and because of well-known historical reasons (the Portuguese considered the Philippines as a Spanish area of influence in Asia for several centuries), it was never possible to materialize a bilateral relation characterized by concrete projects of cooperation.

The Portuguese Festival in Manila from Oct. 1-25 intends to make up for that. It constitutes the first Portuguese-Filipino partnership ever. It is co-organized by Portuguese authorities and Rustan's Commercial Corp., and supported by Hotel InterContinental Manila, Philippine Wine Merchants, Air France and Cemex.

Rustic farm

Rustan's will recreate in its Makati store a traditional Portuguese rustic farm to display the products. More than 50 Portuguese companies will participate in the fair, making it one of the most representative showcases of Portuguese products to take place in Asia.

Food, wines, fashion items, embroideries, crystals, ceramics (including the famous *azulejos*), shoes, even religious icons from Fatima will be available.

A *bacalao* festival, Portuguese style, will take place at Hotel InterContinental.

Besides the codfish, many other Portuguese specialties will be offered, including the famous *cataplana*, a hinged copper pan invented by the Arabs, which is a sort of primitive pressure cooker shaped like an oversized clam shell that can be clamped shut and set on a quick fire, is also offered.

What goes into a *cataplana* depends on the wish of the cook, but the most famous recipe that does is *ameijoas na cataplana*—clams tossed with rounds of sausages and cubes of ham in an intensely garlicky sauce.

The best Portuguese wines and cheeses will also be tasted for the first time in the Philippines. Among the wines, the Esporao became world-famous after making it to the cover of Time magazine in August, as one of the top-quality products of Europe.

The queen of the Portuguese cheeses will also be offered. It is the ivory-hued *queijo da Serra*, a cheese so strictly demarcated it can be made only from the milk of sheep grazing on the wild mountain herbs of the Serra de Estrela in central Portugal.

Fatima celebration

One of the highlights of the festival is a celebration of Our Lady of Fatima, including a procession and a Mass on Oct. 13, the 85th anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady to the three shepherds at Fatima.

A replica of the image of Our Lady will also be venerated at Rustan's during the festival. VIP guests will be offered a wooden rosary made in Fatima.

Filipino painter Manuel Baldemor opened an exclusive exhibition about Portugal on Oct. 1. It is of great curiosity to see my country, including the best-known Portuguese sites and historical monuments, through the eyes of a Filipino.

On the artistic side, Isabel Silvestre, a singer of traditional folk music and religious songs, will give a performance at the RCBC Plaza. It will be the first time that a prestigious Portuguese artist will perform in the Philippines.

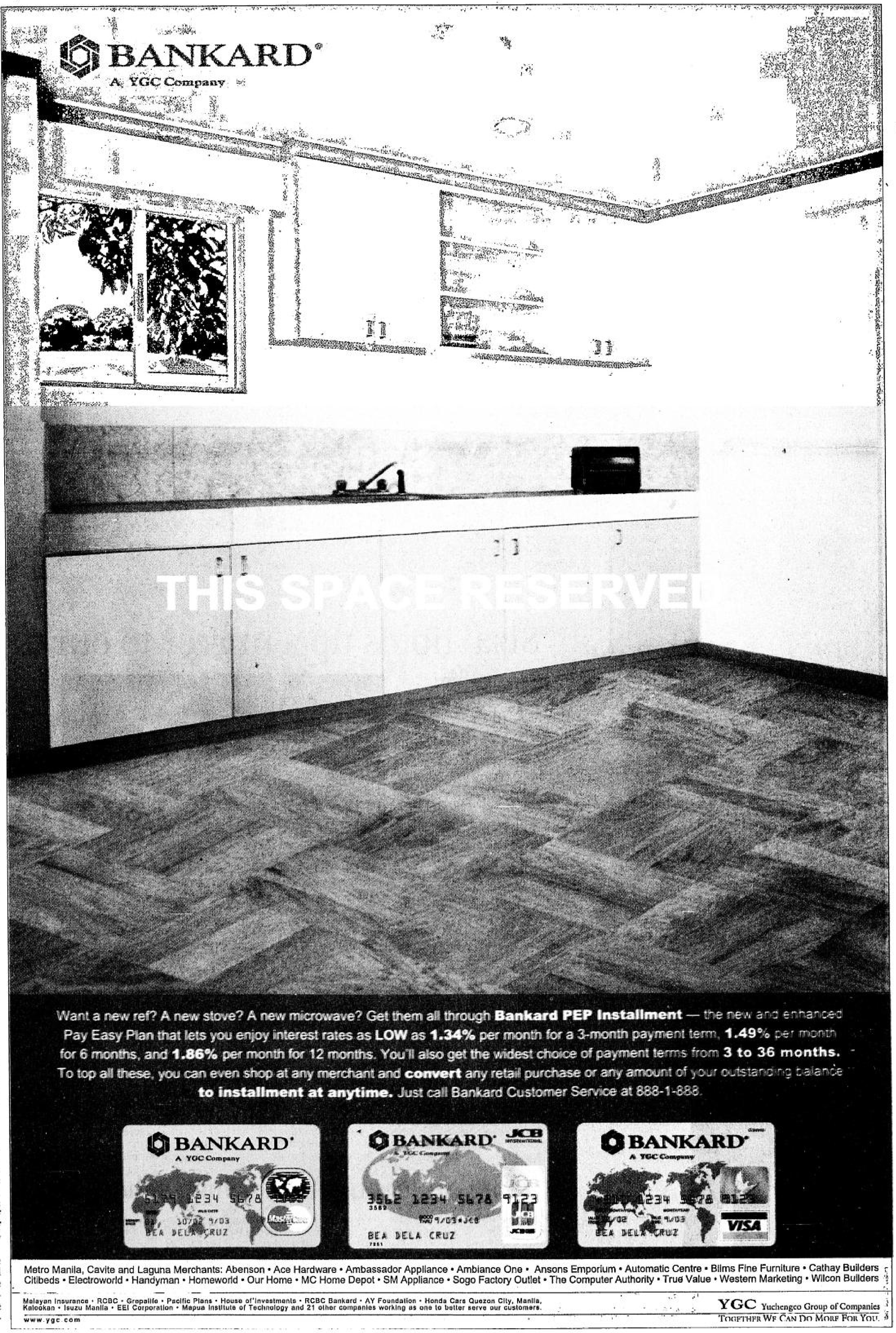
Isabel will also participate in the procession of Our Lady of Fatima, singing the most beautiful and traditional religious songs and, on the evening on Oct. 12 at the Hotel InterContinental, jointly with a traditional Portuguese folk dancing group.

On the cultural and scientific side, Filipinos will have the opportunity to see for the first time 50 maps and sketches of Southeast Asia and the Philippines made by the Portuguese before the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, in an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum.

The maps constitute the first European modern collection of Asian cartography. The sketches display extraordinary information on geological, botanical, geographical and anthropological realities of the precolonial societies of Southeast Asia.

The exhibit illustrates and puts into perspective the old adventures and voyages of the Portuguese in Southeast Asia during the 16th century.

This three-week festival should be an occasion to celebrate the friendship and reciprocal empathy of two peoples, who share many affinities and instinctively like each other. It is a strong expression of mutual love from both sides that—it is to be expected—will materialize in an ever stronger and closer bilateral relationship.



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New York Philharmonic with piano prodigy in Manila

From page D1

midable soloists: Filipino tenor Gary del Rosario and Spanish guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey. While previous Toyota concerts were free and open to Toyota dealers and clients, the concert this time is a fund-raising concert for Tabang Mindanao III. The INQUIRER is among the supporters.

The people behind these orchestras have Filipino connections.

Lorin Maazel, the new music director of New York Philharmonic (he replaced Maestro Kurt Mazur, who is now conductor emeritus), was a Manila visitor in the early '80s and led the Cleveland Orchestra in its first Manila visit.

Pianist Philippe Entremont, who will conduct the Cadaques Orchestra, was in Manila more than a couple of times, but his most memorable visit was in 1977 when he played a duo concert with Cecile Licad and, later, as soloist of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) in Rach 3, which ended on a standing ovation.

The New York Philharmonic soloist, 20-year-old Lang, topped the Curtis Institute auditions in 1996. (In that audition, Lang was only 16.) Placing sixth out of more than 70 who auditioned was a 12-year-old Filipina named Makie Misawa, who adores Lang Lang. Lang had just been declared first prize winner of the Second Tchaikovsky International Young Musicians Competition in 1995 (Misawa, who did not tire watching the video of that competition, was thrilled no end when she was literally face to face with Lang in the Curtis auditions.)

The earlier Chinese pianists who had thrilled Manilans were Fou Tsong, who had a superb recital at the Manila Metropolitan Theater, and Li Jan, who was soloist of the Taiwan Symphony (yes, in Rach 2 again!) also at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in the late '80s. (When I told Li Jan that Rach 2 is almost like the country's second national anthem because it was frequently performed here, he went to the bathroom many times out of nervousness, but delivered one of the fresh interpretations of Rach 2 in living memory.) How Lang Lang will fare in this concerto remains to be seen.

Lang Lang's teacher in Curtis happens to be pianist Gray Graffman, who was also a frequent Manila visitor and soloist of the PPO and the Red Romero-led National Philharmonic (yes, he also played Rach 2 at the PICC under the baton of Romero and Ravel's Concerto for Left Hand under Oscar Yatso). In the late '70s, when I interviewed Graffman in Manila, he privately asked me to tell the then 16-year-old Licad not to always oblige to play after being treated to dinner by rich fans in New York.

Now it looks as though Lang Lang has invaded all the symphony orchestras and conductors Licad had worked with. For example, after Licad played with Vancouver Symphony last May under Bramwell Tovey in Chopin's E Minor Concerto, Lang performs with the same orchestra and conductor in Rach 3 on June 21 next year. The bigger coincidence is that both Licad and Lang were both declared outstanding students of Curtis—she in the early '70s when she was 12, and he in the late '90s when he was 16.

It is also a coincidence that Lang Lang made a big splash in the US at the 1999 Ravinia Festival as a last-minute substitute for an indisposed Andre Watts, who thrilled Manilans in the early '80s. In the audience of Watt's Manila debut were Licad and Imelda Marcos.

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC. The oldest in America

NAMCYA winner Oliver Salonga at St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City

THE ST. Paul University Chorale at Mother Madeleine Hall in Tuguegarao City

What I remember about Watts in my interview with him in the early '80s was his defense of parents who push children to take music seriously. "If my parents didn't push me into taking piano lessons seriously, I wouldn't be in Manila giving this pre-concert interview."

And guess who overwhelmed music lovers in Isabela and Cagayan last weekend?

It's none other than the two-time first prize winner Oliver Salonga, a big fan of Cecile Licad. Salonga was inspired to take his piano lessons more seriously when he saw Makie Misawa perform at the Philamlife Theater in 1997.

Salonga's performance at the St. Ferdinand College in Ilagan, Isabela, overwhelmed both students and teachers. A music-loving priest, Fr. Paco Albano, said the performance was enough to inspire him to write poetry. The school president, Dr. Violeta Directo, said Salonga's performance was too inspired she couldn't find the right words to explain it.

At the St. Paul University (SPU) in Tuguegarao City, the response to Salonga's first solo recital was nothing short of reverential. It didn't elicit standing ovation, but the awed audience refused to leave their seats until the young pianist had played not one but three encores!

SPU president Sr. Angela Barrios commented that the young pianist had a mature outlook and certainly didn't sound like he was only 16.

Sr. Nicole de Marie P. Dabalus, SPC, director of the school's music and culture department, said Salonga's performance brought her back to the years of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin. "I felt the fusion of time—their time and our time rolled over as one under the fingers of Oliver, a mere 16-year-old pianist. The dexterity and agility of his fingers merged with the fast changes in and our present time. It spelled out a message that is loud and clear; there is music in speed, there is rhythm amid the different ticks of time."

Sister Nicole singled out Salonga's playing of Beethoven "Pathetique Sonata" as exceptional. She added: "The rendition of the precise syncopation in the third movement gave us a feeling of organized irregularity. The singing tone that Oliver commanded the piano keys to exude spoke to us that music is the language of the soul. He was able to produce different effects: lilting, connected phrases; subdued, forceful and, sometimes, questioning musical phrases; which all conveyed to us a feeling of 'creation.' Oliver just gave us an unending music to remember. For every final cadence that he played, a new beginning opened."

Equally commendable were the special intermission numbers of the St. Paul University Chorale.

Here and there

Flutist Agustina Deyro, a product of the Philippine High School for the Arts and now another outstanding student of the UST Conservatory of Music, will have a graduation recital on Oct. 10, with pianist Mary Anne Espina as assisting artist.

She was certainly in top form when she did Gabaye's "Sonatine" with bassoonist Adolfo Mendoza in the last Filipino Artists Series concept at the CCP.

* * *

That music-obsessed people also make for more discerning, if sensitive, directors is best exemplified by Italian film director Luchino Visconti, whose 1971 film "Death in Venice" (based on the novel by Thomas Mann) was screened recently at the UP Film Center as part of its "Great Books on Great Films" celebration. Visconti directed Callas during the latter's honeymoon years with "La Scala di Milan" (the two were referred to as the shorthand for passion, drama and "Italianicity").

In Visconti's work, a critic noted, has always been an "unreconciled tension between a Marxist vision of society and an operatic conception of character." Another director, Bernardo Bertolucci, whose "La Luna" was about a singer torn between "divahood" and motherly duties, is another example. Locally, music-loving directors also make exceptional films, such as Peque Gallaga (his monumental "Oro, Plata, Mata" was enhanced by operatic arias dramatizing the passion of the Negrenses), Marilou Diaz-Abaya (her "Sa Pusod ng Dagat" was a tone poem, her "Jose Rizal" was grand opera and her "Muro-Ami" had the depth, if disturbed, vision of a Brahms symphony) and Ishmael Bernal (he confided to me that the ending of his film, "Pahiram ng Umaga," was inspired by the heroine of "La Traviata," with Vilma Santos transformed into a dying Violeta in the film's poignant death scene by the sea).

* * *

I would like to thank those who helped my daughter Kerima during her more than two years of court trial for illegal possession of firearms. The Regional Trial Court Branch 22, under Judge Alfredo G. Vergara in Cabagan, Isabela, dismissed the case last Oct. 1 for insufficiency of evidence. My special thanks to the Integrated Bar of Isabela, under Alex Alfred Castillo, Raymond Aggabao and Bishop Sergio Utleg.

I got the jolt of my life when a music lover told me that if my daughter had not gotten involved in a court case in Isabela, classical music would not have been regularly heard in the region, as it does now. Aside from Salonga, among those I brought to the Cagayan Valley for special outreach concerts were Russian violinist Anastacia Chebotareva, Chinese-American cellist Angela Lee, pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria, Reynaldo Reyes, Nita Abrogar Quinto, J. Greg Zuniega, tenor Gary del Rosario, flutist GJ Herman Gomez and soprano Alegria Ferrer.

Manila homecoming for NY symphony

CITIGROUP, in celebration of its 100th year in the Philippines, will be presenting the New York Philharmonic (NYP), under the baton of its new music director Lorin Maazel, this month. This is the second leg of their 2002 Asian Tour, which will take the world-renowned orchestra on a six-city swing through Beijing, Manila, Hongkong, Macau, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

"We are very pleased to return to this vibrant region of the world, following the great success of our June 2002 Citigroup Asian Tour," said NYP executive director Zarin Mehta.

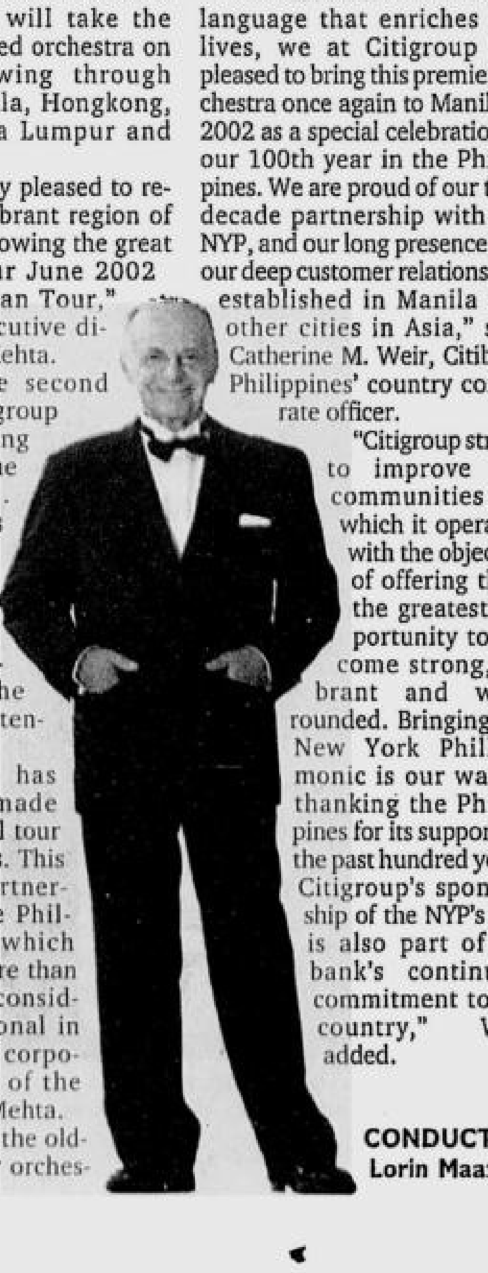
This is the second time that Citigroup will be bringing the NYP to the Philippines. The first was in 1998 when the NYP regaled Filipinos with a concert in celebration of the country's Centennial.

"Citigroup has once again made this wonderful tour possible for us. This long-term partnership with the Philharmonic, which goes back more than 20 years, is considered exceptional in the world of corporate support of the arts," added Mehta.

The NYP is the oldest symphony orchestra in the US and counts several musical luminaries among its music directors, music advisers and principal conductors. They include Arturo Toscanini, Leonard Bernstein and Zubin Mehta.

"Because music is a universal language that enriches our lives, we at Citigroup are pleased to bring this premier orchestra once again to Manila in 2002 as a special celebration of our 100th year in the Philippines. We are proud of our two-decade partnership with the NYP, and our long presence and our deep customer relationships established in Manila and other cities in Asia," said Catherine M. Weir, Citibank Philippines' country corporate officer.

"Citigroup strives to improve the communities in which it operates, with the objective of offering them the greatest opportunity to become strong, vibrant and well-rounded. Bringing the New York Philharmonic is our way of thanking the Philippines for its support for the past hundred years. Citigroup's sponsorship of the NYP's visit is also part of the bank's continuing commitment to the country," Weir added.



CONDUCTOR Lorin Maazel

'Sisa' holds up a mirror to our times

By Paulo B. Masangkay
Contributor

"SISA," the play written, directed and performed by Rustica C. Carpio, has had quite a run lately. "Paco Park Presents" staged it recently. The play was also staged at the Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin of the National Commission for Culture and at the Far Eastern University Auditorium as a special project of the FEU President's Committee on Culture. More performances are expected.

More often than not, viewers get enticed with several characters, for they somehow expect variation in terms of role playing and acting. Probably, such expectations can explain why, in a way, some people dislike a one-act monologue. Will "Sisa" be spared from this treatment?

Certainly, the play does not deserve any negative judgment. When we watched it at the FEU Auditorium, majority of the viewers were students. Sisa was portrayed by Dr. Rustica C. Carpio, who has been recognized for her acting prowess here and abroad. She wrote and directed the script of "Sisa," making Jose Rizal's character in "Noli Me Tangere" unforgettable and more colorful.

RUSTICA Carpio as the tormented Sisa at the Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin in Intramuros

Carpio's performance was undoubtedly worth our time. Watching her on stage, we became inclined to believe that she was really Sisa. Her powerful voice reached all corners of the auditorium (especially in that scene where she was being harassed by the guardia civil while looking for her two sons). Carpio did justice to the role of Sisa as a loving, caring mother.

Carpio's heartrending performance showed how a mother, so helpless and hopeless, would courageously do anything for her children. She delivered her lines so naturally and realistically. Even the male students, who were stubborn and boisterous before the play started, gave the actress a standing ovation.

The production was able to bring viewers back to the time and place where Sisa's story transpired. The bamboo fence had genuine slices of bamboo grass. The voiceover and other sounds, like the barking of the dog and galloping of horses, were realistic.

In times like this, what can we derive from the story of Sisa? Is her tale good only for historical studies? Or is her character still present in our pluralistic society despite the fact that she is just a character in our national hero's imagination?

Emblem

Sisa lost her sanity due to the pressure of the events brought about by colonization. To students of literature, she is an emblem. She symbolizes the Philippines in the hands of the colonizers. Basilio and Crispin could be considered our forefathers, who were exposed to, and personally experienced, the perils of colonization. Sisa tried her best to save her children when the two were accused of the crime they did not commit. Their experiences have resonance up to now.

The story happened more than a hundred years ago, but there are still Sisas in our midst. Nowadays, a lot of mothers experience their own share of brutalities, which are mostly due to poverty. Like Sisa, these mothers find it painful to see their children working in the streets, selling *sampaguita* and rags.

And look at our country now. It is still the same country that Sisa symbolizes in "Noli Me Tangere." Her tormentors are no longer the high-nosed Spaniards, but her own sons: corrupt government officials, unscrupulous lawmakers, capitalists who exploit laborers, and drug lords. Carpio's "Sisa" is really an eye-opener, a value-laden literary piece.

Testing centers named for high school art scholars

THE PHILIPPINE High School for the Arts (PHSA) is pleased to announce the six regional testing and audition centers for the Annual Nationwide Search for Young Art Scholars for the school year 2002-2003.

They are the following: (Luzon) Oct. 8, Mariano Marcos Memorial High School, 2090 Carreon St., Sta Ana, Manila; Oct. 15, Baguio City National High School, Baguio City; (Visayas) Nov. 5, Leyte National High School, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Tacloban City; Nov. 7, Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School, CPG Avenue, Tagbilaran City, Bohol; (Mindanao) Nov. 19, Davao City National High School, F. Torres Street, Davao City; Nov. 21, Misamis Occidental National High School, Bernard Street, Pob 1 Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

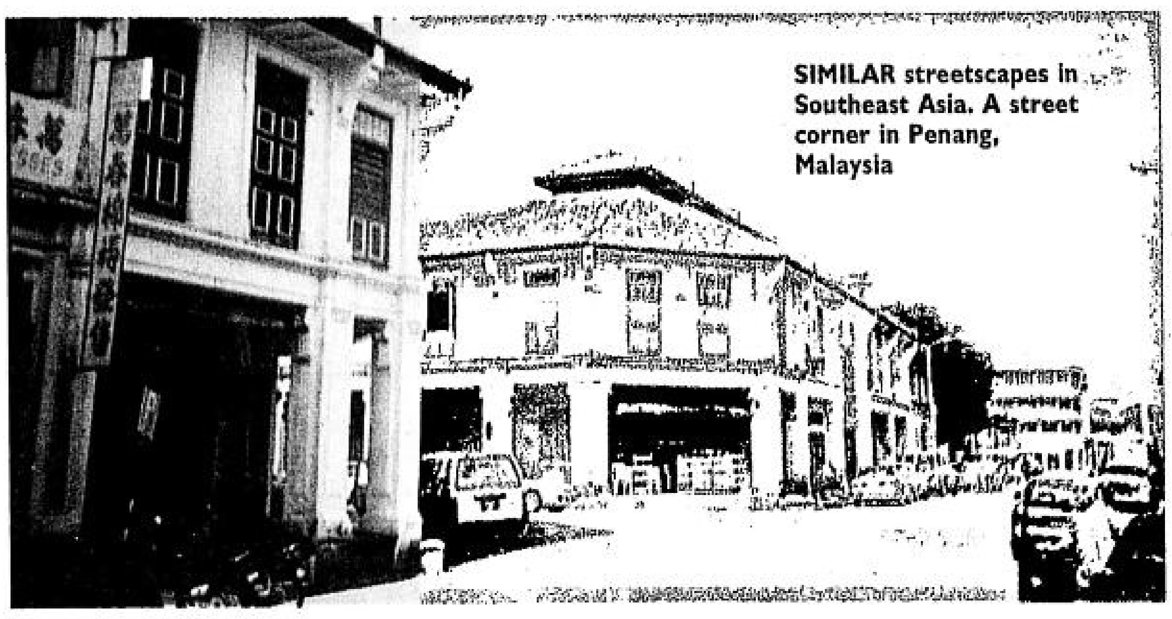
Application forms are still available at DepEd division offices and at the PHSA Office, Folk Arts Theater, CCP Complex Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Walk-in applicants may proceed directly to a test center nearest their place of residence on the date specified above.

Call Reynaldo Wong at (049) 536-5972 and (049) 536-2862, or contact the PHSA Manila office at 832-1120 local 112, or e-mail phsa@laguna.net.

Can Asian architecture survive the McDonald's century?

Excerpts from a paper delivered at the Congress 2002, Asia Pacific Space Designers Association, Manila, Philippines

SOPHISTICATED information technology zips ideas around the world in seconds. Ideas going around the world are nothing new. It is the speed of transmission that has changed drastically. The army of Alexander the Great swept through distant lands, colonizing them with Greek might while spreading Greek ideas. The Roman Empire controlled its subjects not only through force but through ideas as well.



SIMILAR streetscapes in Southeast Asia. A street corner in Penang, Malaysia

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

Historic migration patterns and trade routes have circulated ideas and goods between China, India and the Southeast Asian cultures since before recorded history. The interaction is still seen today in the overlays of similarities found among the countries.

From the 16th century, Western colonization brought a wave of new ideas to Southeast Asia from Spain, Portugal and Britain. In the late 18th century, the Netherlands and the United States established their presence in the region. Each power brought with it ideas that made indelible imprints on the local culture. However, no matter how strong the foreign influence was, it was never assimilated without question. Instead, it was adapted into the local culture. True, the adaptation process produced a somewhat hybrid culture, but most of the time the process guaranteed cultural survival. The local culture ended up the richer for having encountered the foreign.

What counts

These days, speed is what counts. The dissemination process has changed since the days of the Greek, Roman, Spanish and British empires when information moved slowly, marching with armies or sailing the seas from the mother country to the colonies and in many cases, loaded into couriers' saddlebags and galloped to their final destinations. Snail mail is a thing of the past. Information technology has advanced so rapidly within the last few years that anything we need know is a keyboard tap away. We send and receive thoughts from anywhere in the globe at the flick of the "send" button.

Have we developed a homogenous global culture without our knowing it? Has international advertising made us so aware of the latest global trends that we now all want to follow media dictates and live in uniform environments designed in the trend of the moment and furnished with the latest design icons? Is globalization homogenizing our tastes and preferences?

On the surface, it appears that it is. If that is true, then globalization could wipe out the individual cultural identity of the diverse people around the world, joining everyone into a single globalized culture. Things would be the same everywhere.

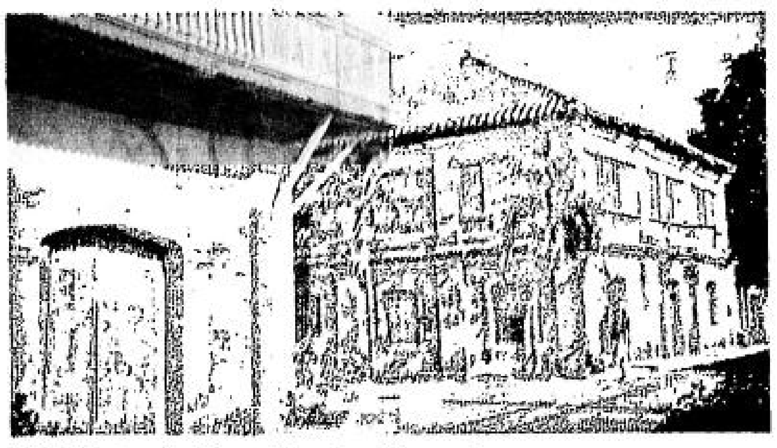
Strong hand

Have the giants of globalization, McDonald's to name an obvious one, been exercising a strong hand in homogenizing global preferences? Have their products become global constants since all McDonald's outlets in the world sell the same hamburger?

In truth, the hamburgers are not quite the same. In France, hamburgers come with a cream sauce not found in other countries. In Asia, McDonald's meals include rice. Giant McDonald's acknowledges the taste of different cultures by adjusting their products and by including local food in the menu.

So take it from the giants: globalization does not translate into uniformity. Tastes are adjusted to respond to local palates. To be effective, globalization takes regional or national preferences into consideration.

The design and architecture profession has been enriched by a global exchange of ideas that has been happening without interruption. The profession has looked at history and into regional styles for inspiration. Classical Greek and Roman architecture was revived by Palladio in the 16th century. A second revival of Greek and Roman architecture happened in the late 19th century; it emerged as the Beaux Arts style.



VIGAN street with outstanding Quema house

Is globalization homogenizing our tastes and preferences?

During the Napoleonic era, Egyptian motifs were the primary design source of Empire style furniture, later basically the same motifs inspired the Art Deco style of the 1920s. Each of the styles, and for the other styles that followed them, are grounded on the reinterpretation of historical motifs into forms that were felt to be truly appropriate to their particular times.

Assimilation

The many similarities existing among the diverse cultures of Southeast Asia are proof of the local assimilation of influences that have swept the region. Linguistically, the majority of Southeast Asians belong to the Austronesian language group, numbering some 700-800 languages, spoken in most of island Southeast Asia, parts of Vietnam, Taiwan, Micronesia, Polynesia and Madagascar. Linguistic affinity is an attribute that unites Southeast Asians. Common architectural features are also found throughout the region.

The typical Austronesian house is a wooden structure, simply framed by wooden posts and covered by a thatched roof. The rectangular structure is elevated from the ground on posts. The basic form has been subject to a wealth of elaborate refinements throughout the region.

Structures of remarkable form and size are found among the Dayaks of Kalimantan, the Minagkabau and Batak of Sumatra, and the Toraja of Sulawesi.

The Malay house follows the same prototype, but when compared with the Indonesian version, it is smaller, raised lower from the ground, and its roof is less pronounced. The same type of house is seen in the hills of Luang Prabang in Laos.

The traditional Philippine house is another variation of the Austronesian house. In rural areas, it is a single-room structure of wood, bamboo and thatch. Like its Southeast Asian neighbors, the structure is raised from the ground to improve the ventilation of the living quarters above. The space provides a shaded area below the house, allowing residents and farm animals alike to escape the tropical heat.

To be concluded

Venezuela
magic land

REV. Fr. Winston Cabahug, O.P. of UST and Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez

Mexican mariachis . . .

From page D2

would you believe?—like a *kundiman*.

We were sad to hear Ambassador Ramirez announcing at the charity lunch (which she and the association of Latin American ladies gave at the Inter-Con last week) that she might soon be reassigned.

The lunch was on behalf of the Institute Santa Mariana de Jesus and the Marianitas Sisters, who are trying to set up a medical center in Mariveles, Bataan, and conduct educational workshops without even a community house. The three sisters had come by public transport and were returning to Mariveles the same way. They also arrived in the Philippines a year ago without knowing a word of the Filipino language!

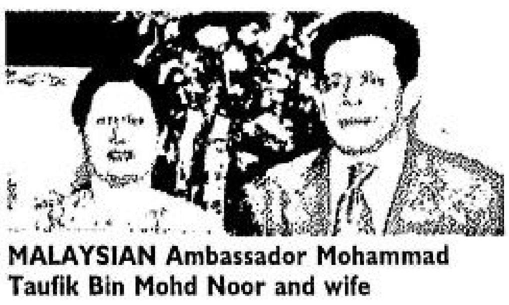
So, if you're feeling kind-hearted and would like to share of your largesse, the sisters have an account (No. 2151-0538-26) at the Landbank-Mariveles branch. You may also call them at (047) 935-6135 or e-mail marianitasisters@yahoo.com.mx.

FORMER President Fidel Ramos

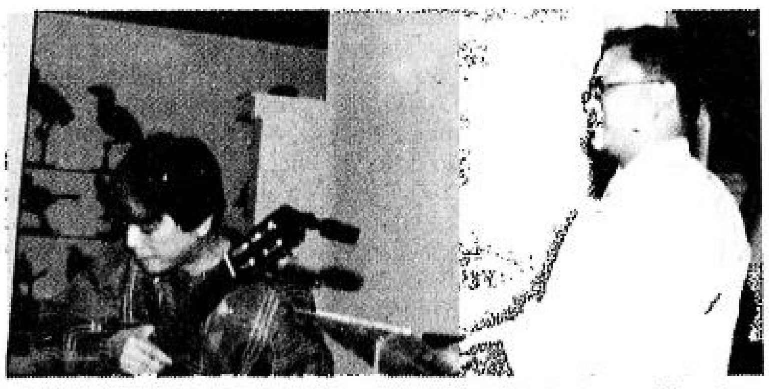
DR. Fumian Su

CHILEAN Ambassador Carmen Lynam and husband Maurice Mannakee

PERUVIAN Ambassador Jorge Chavez Soto



MALAYSIAN Ambassador Mohammad Taufik Bin Mohd Noor and wife



UST Conservatory of Music guitarist Sixto Carlo Roxas IV and tenor Jose Randy Gilongo

October
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The horror of pleasure

A Filipino novelist casts her spell on the dètective genre

REVIEW

Smaller and Smaller Circles by F.H. Batacan
UP Press, 2002
155 pages

By April Timbol Yap
Contributor

THERE are no serial killers in the Philippines.

In her Palanca-winning first novel, "Smaller and Smaller Circles," Felisa Batacan plants a seed that disturbs this widely held assumption. She points out that "Philippine police and law enforcement authorities do not compile statistics on missing persons on a nationwide basis... Little attention is paid to determining patterns... serial killing is a far more prevalent phenomenon in the country than the police have the capability or the inclination to detect."

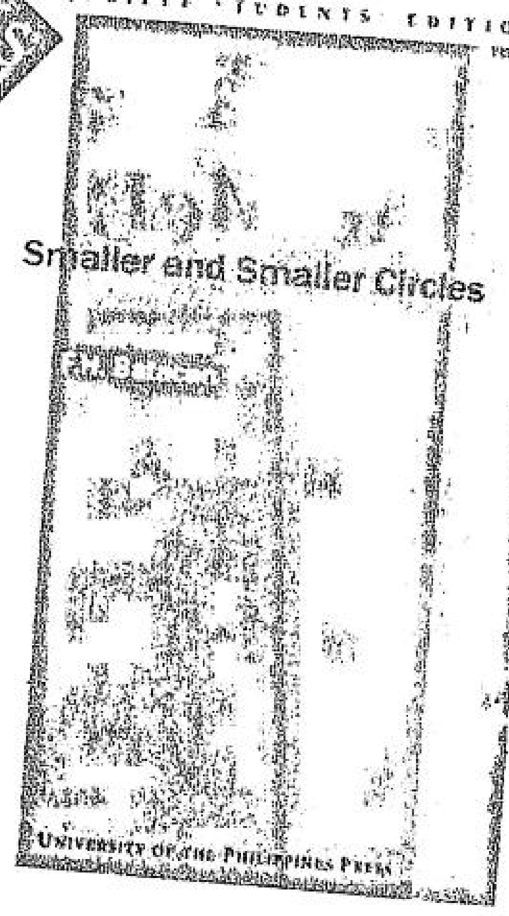
She makes us forget about the serial killers roaming the corn fields of rural America or those stalking the back alleys of Europe because in her novel, the streets the serial murderer walks are now our own. Batacan brings the killer home and makes him haunt the comfortable world of Ateneo, Katipunan Avenue, and the small roads of Quezon City. The Payatas dumpsite, already notorious for the terrible landslide years ago, is now given an even more menacing air as the setting for a series of gruesome murders.

Hot on the trail of the slaughterer are two Jesuit priests who are arguably the most engaging men of the cloth to come out in Filipino literature. Fr. Gus Saenz and Fr. Jerome Lucero are forensic anthropologists. Jerome, the younger half of this new dynamic duo, is rather serious and intense with a volatile temper. Gus, on the other hand, listens to Bach, Gregorian chants, the Doors, and the Sex Pistols when examining corpses.

The novel begins insidiously, and the first glimpse you have of this world is through the eyes of the killer.

"I feel like I'm always being watched. I hate being watched."

There is no reprieve as the immediate succeeding scenes introduce us to the horror the book holds. Batacan does not disappoint us in our expectation of a crime novel. Blood, and lots of it. It is this dread that makes the book a wonderful and welcome addition to the body of Philippine literature in English. For the first time, an author deals with a theme very common in popular Western literature, much loved by many readers, yet largely ignored by Filipino writers.


Smaller and Smaller Circles
University of the Philippines Press

Doubt

At first, one is dubious about whether this kind of story could work. A doubt that perhaps stems from the firm conviction that there are no serial killers in the Philippines. But as we're taken through the novel, firmly grounded as it is in familiar surroundings, the story not only works—it frightens.

It isn't a dizzying action-packed book though. There are moments in which the author proceeds ponderously through a maze of detail. Laborious as these sections may seem at times, it is precisely these parts that allow us to appreciate the remarkable research the author did to preserve the scientific integrity of her novel.

This does not mean that the author is incapable of kicking up her pace a few notches. Once we wade through the detail, Batacan pushes her priests to draw their initial conclusions and, despite any resistance we may have to immersing ourselves further in the horrific quality of the book, we are plunged right in.

At this point, the author hits her stride. The gripping quality of the succeeding hundred or so pages makes the novel difficult to put down. Traditional whodunits have us at the edge of our seat guessing who the criminal may be. Other crime novels reveal the perpetrator and we turn the pages to find out how such an evil criminal will meet his. But the power of "Smaller and Smaller Circles" lies in neither of these.

Incidental

The solution to the mystery becomes incidental to Batacan's story. It isn't even the curiosity of what happens next that makes the novel compelling. It is the mind of the killer that is the driving force of the story.

Throughout much of the novel, the murderer is a specter whose voice haunts us in alternating chapters. One feat accomplished in this novel is that the author filled it with the presence of a character we never see until the end; and by the time we do encounter the murderer, we are so deeply engrossed with the persona we find our sympathies lie there. Toward the end, the killer says: "*I. Didn't. Want. It.*" And it is his salvation we wish for.

The great number of horror films produced through the decades is an indicator that people have a strange fascination for the dark, the terrifying, the macabre. This inherent quality should in itself be enough to make "Smaller and Smaller Circles" a satisfying read; but in the novel, this fascination pushed deeper than glimpses at horrifying images. The book becomes gratifying because our involvement goes much further than watching a terrifying story unfold. We are taken into the mind of a psychopath and we realize, with a little shock of pleasure, that we understand just how it thinks.

Ateneo book award winners

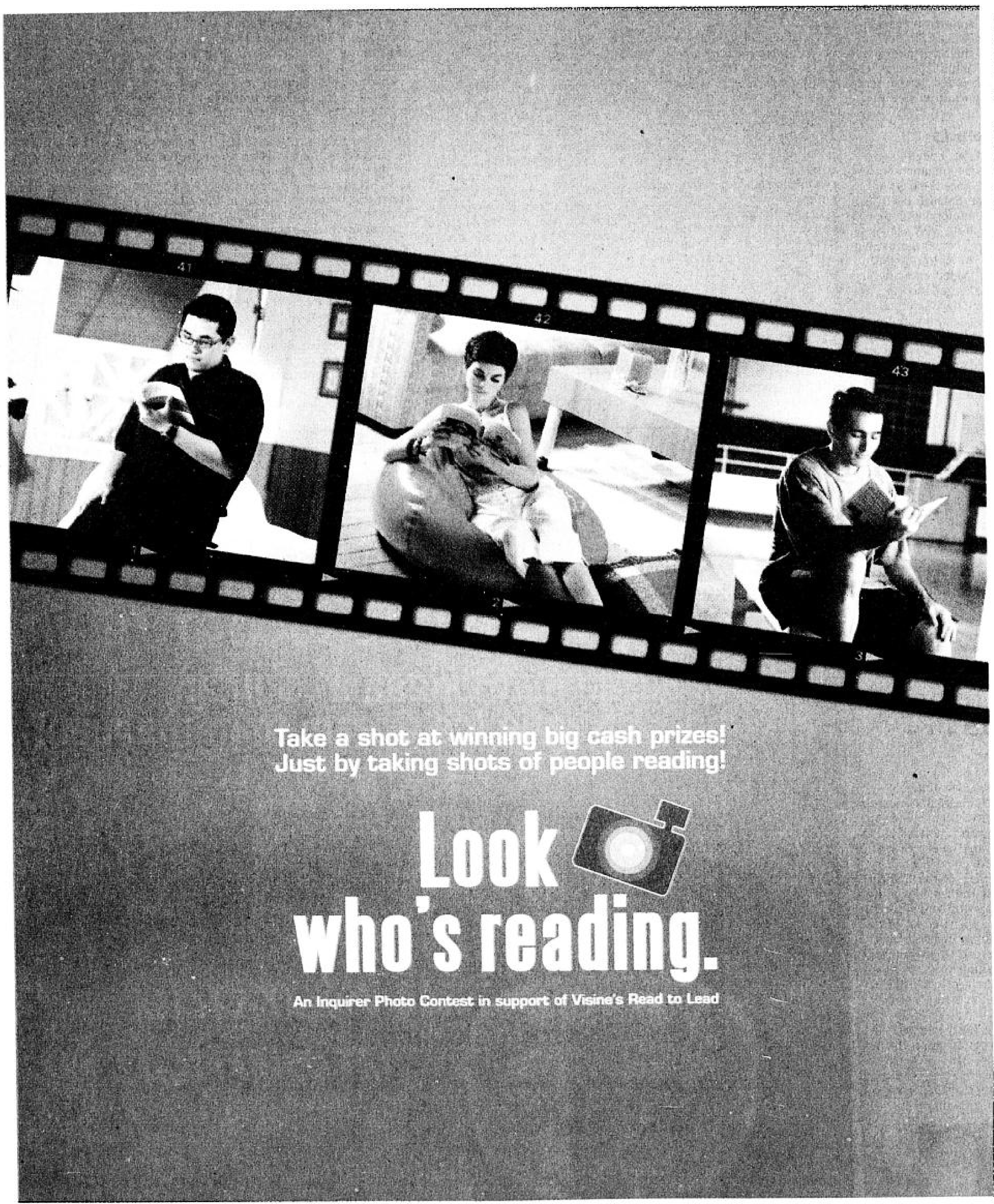
THE BOOK Development Association of the Philippines and the National Book Development Board gave out the biannual Gintong Aklat awards for excellent bookmaking during the Philippine Bookfair in Mandaluyong.

Among the winners were Ateneo Press publications: "Geopolitics of the Visible," edited by Rolando Tolentino, and "Image to Meaning" by Alice Guillermo, for Art; "Leaving the Priesthood" by Emmanuel Fernandez for Religion; and "Magosaha, Ethnography of the Sama Dilaut" by H. Arlo Nimmo.

Aside from content, the Gintong Aklat awards give special attention to technical aspects of publications: artwork, book design, and paper, printing and binding quality.

The Manila Critics Circle likewise gave its yearly National Book Awards at the Philippine Bookfair. Among the winners were: "Reflections on Philippine Society and Culture," "Festschrift in Honor of William Henry Scott," edited by Jesus Peralta, for Anthology; "History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones" by Cecilia Locsin Nava, for Literary Studies; and "Leaving the Priesthood" by Emmanuel Fernandez, for Religion.

These books may be ordered through bookstores nationwide or from the Ateneo Press. Call 426-5984, 426-6001 local 4612/6, fax to 426-5909, or e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph.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* Half in cash and half in Gift Certificates from National Book Store

Contest Mechanics:

1. This photo contest is open only to amateur photographers.
2. Submit a photo in 5R size if print, or 300 dpi if digital (in disk), featuring a person or a group of people reading books, magazines and newspapers in unusual poses, situations or places. Or photos that best capture the theme: "Reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained and can be done by anyone, anywhere and anytime."
3. Photos must be accompanied by a short caption of not more than 50 words describing the scene depicted in the photo. Entries should also have the sender's name, age, address, telephone number and school/office.
4. One winner will be chosen weekly from October 12 to December 16 and will have their photos featured in Philippine Daily Inquirer's Lifestyle section.
5. All 10 weekly winners (1 winner per week for 10 weeks) qualify for the grand draw. First, second and third prizewinners will be announced and photos will be published again on the last week of the promo on December 23, 2002.
6. Criteria:
   - Creativity
   - Originality/Uniqueness of Photo
   - Adherence to the Promo Objective
7. Mail entries to:
   "Look Who's Reading" Contest
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   Makati City
8. Only entries received from October 7 to December 10, 2002 will be included in the weekly contest. Winners can only win once in the weekly contest.
9. Only one photo per entry will be accepted. Duplicate entries will be treated as one entry and will be attributed to the first sender.
10. Photos must be original and not manipulated. Pictures submitted in print should ideally be sent in with negatives. Photographer must have obtained the consent to photograph subjects, venues and other details in photo. Philippine Daily Inquirer, Visine (Pfizer) and National Book Store will not be liable for any legal or civil complaint/suit that may arise from unauthorized publishing of photos submitted.
11. Organizers reserve the right to determine the validity of entries submitted. All entries received become the property of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Contest period: October 7 to December 16, 2002

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Workshop on children's writing

THE UP Institute of Creative Writing and Adarna House have awarded 20 fellowships for the first Barlaya Writing for Children Workshop, to be held Oct. 10-12 at the Francisco Arcellana Library in UP Diliman and at Adarna House.

The 20 writing fellows are: Sarah J. Arado, Joseph Patrick Arevalo, Carlota Mortel-Baricaua, Christine S. Bellen, JR Bustamante, Ana Celina de la Peña, Allan Derain, Jason Dy, Herbeth Fondevilla, Ma. Catherine Gatchalian, Atel Jazmines, Ma. Cecilia Locsin Nava, Andrea Licuanan Paterson, Edwin Pueblos, Lara Saguisag, Jose Miguel Tejido, Mae Astrid Tobias, May Tobias, Ma. Melody Torres-Ibao and Rosario Torres-Yu.

The teaching panel of distinguished writers and experts in children's literature will be led by Prof. Virgilio Almario, Rene Villanueva and Carla Pacis, all associates of the UP Institute of Creative Writing. The Product Development Group of Adarna House will also join the panel.

Jim Paredes at PowerBooks

ANVIL Publishing and Visine invite the public to best-selling author, singer-composer and producer Jim Paredes' talk, titled "Creativity and Spirituality," on Oct. 11, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks on Arnaiz Avenue, Makati. Paredes' books, "Humming in my Universe" and "Between Blinks," will be offered at special prices during the event.

Known to the public as a member of the singing group Apo Hiking Society, Paredes is also an environmentalist, lecturer, photographer and workshop facilitator. In his books, he shares to the public his "journey from entertainment to enlightenment." He will be signing copies of his books after the talk.

Zamboanga book fair

THE FIRST Zamboanga Book Fair will be held Oct. 11-14 at the Ateneo de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City. Organized by the Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions (Abap) with the Ateneo de Zamboanga, the book fair focuses on the theme "Promoting Literacy Through Reading."

According to Abap president Virginia P. Gapuz, "visitors can expect a feast of the latest books and other educational materials covering all areas of discipline from scientific and technical, medical and allied health, education, criminology, general references, children's books as well as Filipiniana materials. The books are suitable for all levels of readers from preschool to tertiary and postgraduate."

Gapuz adds, "The book fair is an ideal venue for schools in Region 9 that are under accreditation or need to update their library collections as they will be able to inspect and buy books under one roof at discounted prices."

Added features of the book fair are two seminars especially designed for English teachers and librarians.

Call Beth at 927-9858.

Campus investigative press award nears deadline

THE DEADLINE for submission of entries to the National Campus Investigative Journalism Award sponsored by the Varsitarian, the 74-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, has been extended to Oct. 16.

The award, established by former Varsitarian editor in chief and Washington-based legal editor Julio S. Macaranas Jr., is open to all student publications in the college level. The investigative report may be written singly or by a team (whole publication). The entry should have been published between October 2001 and September 2002 and must come with an endorsement from the campus press adviser/s or by a Journalism or Communication Arts professor.

The author/s of the winning investigative report will receive P30,000 in cash, a specially designed medal, certificates and books from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. In addition, the student publication where the investigative report was published will receive a plaque and P20,000 in cash. Minor awards will also be given.

The awards will be given during the closing night of Inkblots 2001, the national campus press fellowship, on Oct. 24-25 at UST.

Call Teodoro Lorenzo Fernandez at 731-3101 local 8235 or visit the Varsitarian office at Room 112, UST Main Building, or e-mail inkblots2001ust@yahoo.com.

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Lamp power	25 watts	5-6 watts	
Cost of first lamp	P23.00	P265.00	
No. of times you replace	5	0	
Replacement cost	P115.00	0	
Electricity cost	P888.00	P177.60	
Total cost	P1,026.00	P442.60	P583.40

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How to shoot prima ballerinas and get away with it

Photographer G-nie Arambulo does a Degas with Ballet Manila

LISA Macuja in flight

By Jerome B. Gomez
Contributor

"THEY always like me to shoot babies," says advertising photographer G-nie Arambulo. At the AdPhoto/Art of Light studio where she holds office, it is her name that agencies ask for when a print ad needs an infant in the picture. She has shot many times for Johnson & Johnson. When

HOW/ p.E2

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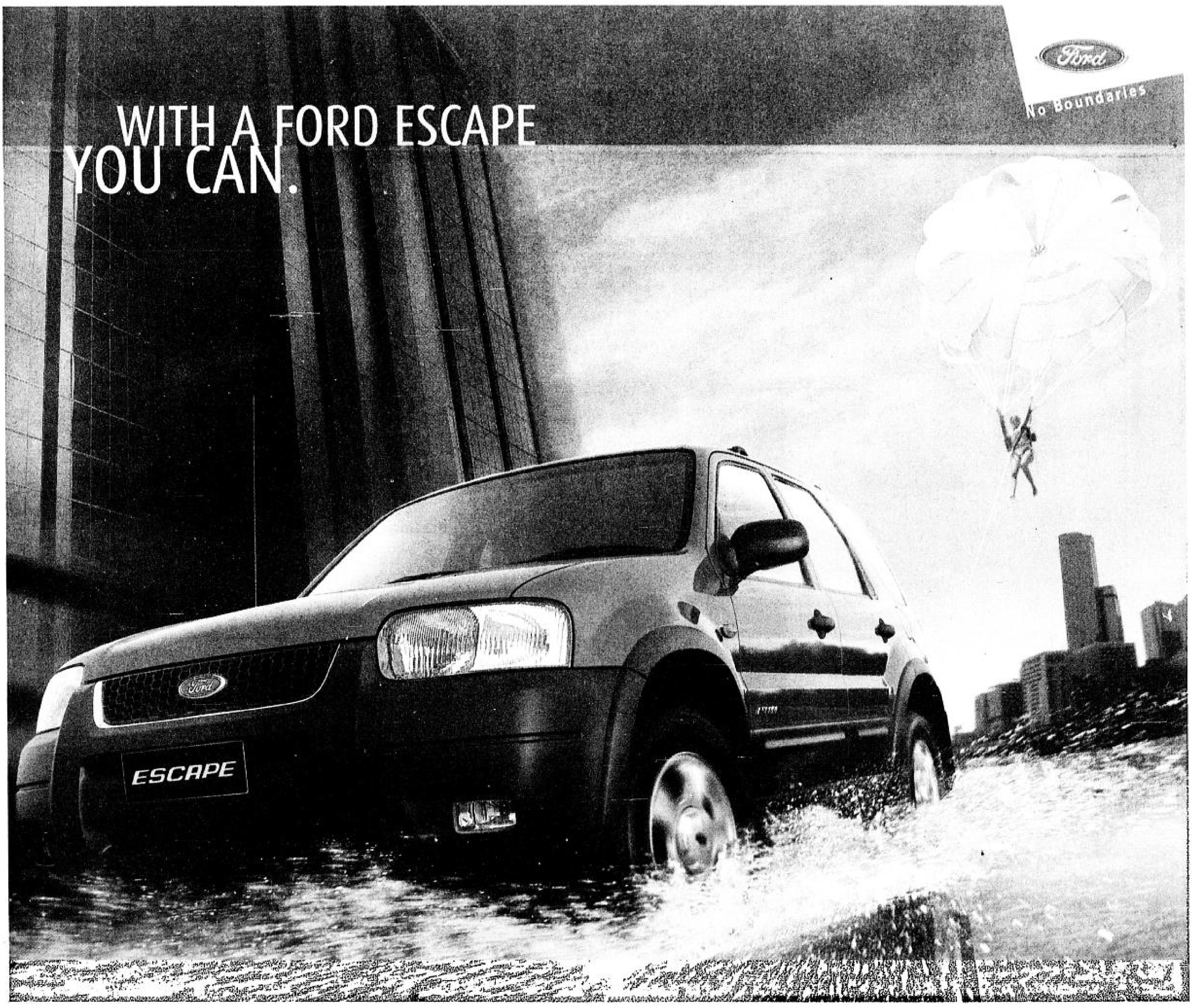

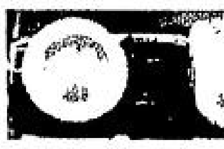

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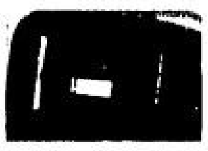

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Dr. Rabbit's Corner
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Bright Smiles, Bright Futures

My Bright Smile Poster Contest

Colgate congratulates Christine Shara Paulette delos Reyes for winning in Colgate's 2002 "My Bright Smile" Global Poster Contest! Her artwork now joins other winning entries by other children from other countries.

Christine Shara Paulette delos Reyes
Grade 2 Iba, Zambales

Here are the other finalists of the local 2002 Colgate "My Bright Smile" Poster Contest. Congratulations to all of you! Keep sharing your talents and help other kids keep their smiles bright and happy.

John Paul Cacay
Grade 1,
Magallanes Tayug, Pangasinan

Genesis Bergosa
Grade 1,
San Jose, Bulacan

Jastine Blaise Marcaida
Grade 1,
Pamplona, Cagayan

Krystel Subaldo
Grade 1, Tacurong,
Sultan Kudarat

Kharmon Baluran
Grade 2,
Talamban, Cebu City

Emmanuel Navarro
Grade 2,
Bacon, Sorsogon City

Joemari Gonzales
Grade 2,
Sta. Ana, Manila

Diane Marie Valdriz
Grade 3,
San Juan, La Union

Jeric Villanueva
Grade 3,
Bocaue, Bulacan

Kenneth Isaak Generalo
Grade 3,
Santa Cruz

Bethuel Consolacion
Grade 3,
Iligan City, Lanao del Norte

Colgate's "My Bright Smile" Poster Contest is open to all by grades 1 to 3 students of public schools implementing the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Oral Health Education Program. The artworks embody the theme: "Why My Bright Smile Makes Me Happy."

The poster contest is one of the highlights of the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Oral Health Education Program, a partnership of Colgate and the Department of Education which aims to help Filipino schoolchildren become aware of proper oral health care habits and practices through education.
Why My Colgate smile makes me happy
It makes my teeth brighter and stronger
Why My Bright Smile Makes Me Happy
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Colgate
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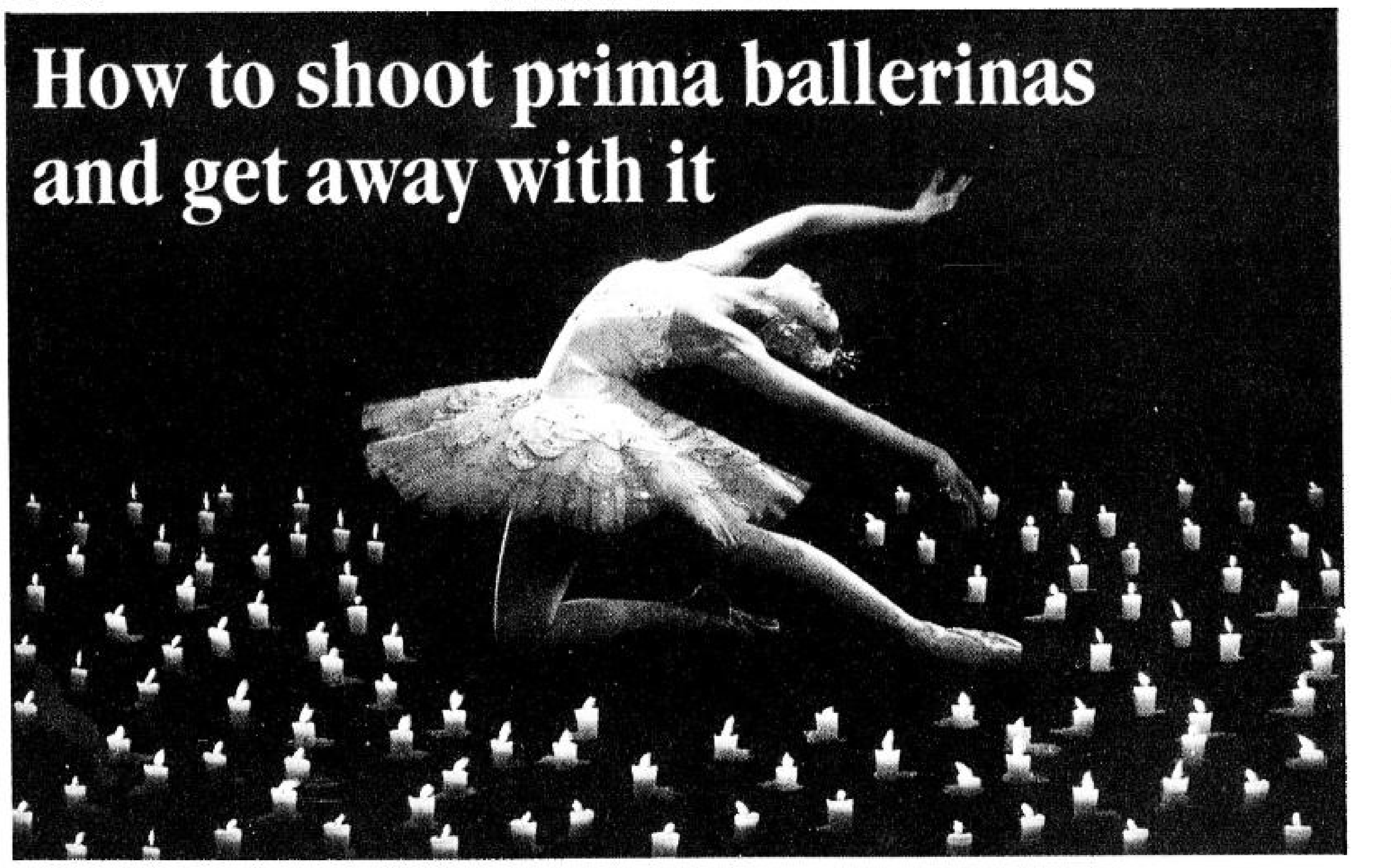
How to shoot prima ballerinas and get away with it


MELANIE Motus in candlelit wonder

From page E1

Missy Elizalde needed to be photographed for a baby milk campaign, the ad agency tapped Arambulo to shoot. "*Siguro kasi* I'm very patient," says the mild-mannered, rather mannish 35-year-old.

The patience she got from her apprentice years, when she slaved it in the darkroom and fixed tripods at AdPhoto. This was after leaving an art director post at a top advertising agency more than 10 years ago. The talent she honed from years of being mentored by commercial photographer John Chua.

The courage to finally put her work out there—on exhibit, with her name on it—she got from Missy's mom, Lisa Macuja.

Arambulo and Macuja first met on the set of Missy's shoot. The print ad required the toddler to do a little dancing, and the mom needed to be present to encourage the daughter to deliver. Macuja was so impressed with the results that she invited Arambulo to photograph a performance of Ballet Manila's production of "Dracula." After the show, the photographer resolved to make dance the subject of her first exhibit.

Exactly a year after "Dracula," Arambulo has completed "Dance with Me," her first non-advertising body of work to be unveiled Oct. 12 at the Aliw Theater of Star City. Close to thirty 20" x 30" photographs—taken using the Phase 1 digital photo system, featuring the company of Ballet Manila—will be on show. During the past year, she worked with the dancers (including, of course, Macuja) during Saturdays, the only time Arambulo is allowed to do her non-advertising pursuits, and in the most accessible places to her and her subjects, the AdPhoto studio, the Star City and the garden of the Elizalde home in Pasay.

"It would be twice as difficult to do an exhibit on dance if it were not for the digital camera," says Arambulo, who is too grateful she works in advertising, which can afford to invest on the latest of technology.

She focused more on movement than on poses: the Espejo brothers—Eduardo, Jeffrey and Jerome—caught in passionate mid-dance; Sandra Lynn Huang's feet pirouetting, Jerome's tutu in a splash of water; and Macuja in flight. The prima ballerina, in full costume and smile, had to do her high jumps 20 times until they finally got the image right.

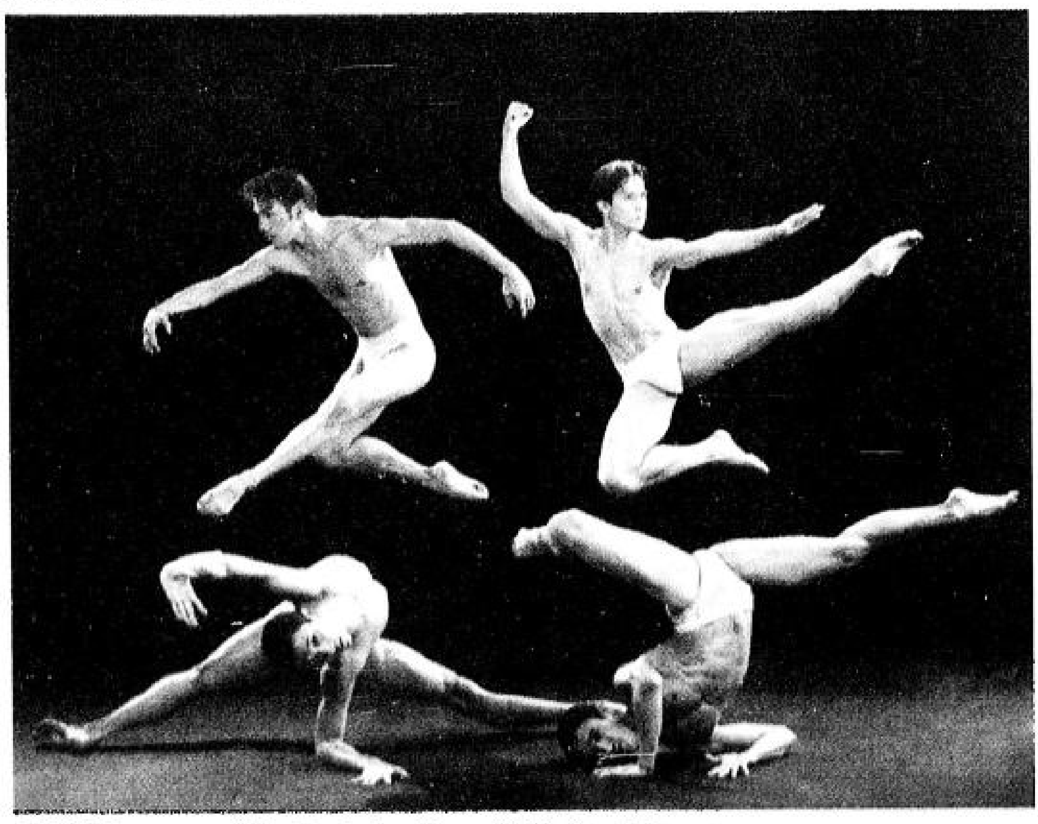
That the exhibit is a collaboration with dancers is very much apparent in the results; they gave the camera the most photogenic of movements. But the art direction, the composition, the timing are entirely Arambulo's. The crisp, crystal images in "Dance with Me" can only come from a trained, unforgiving eye of one who shoots cars, pasta noodles and babies for a living.

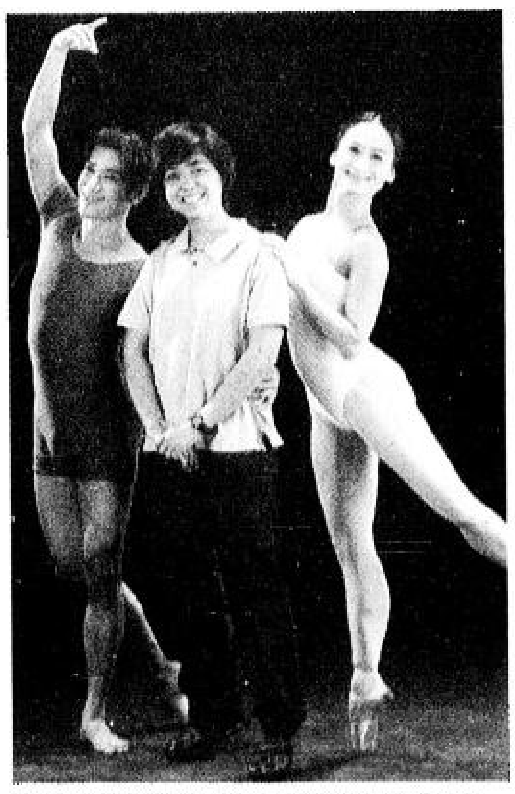
"Dance with Me" will be on exhibit Oct. 12-19 at the Aliw Theater, Star City, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

LISA Macuja in Wonderland

JEFFREY Espejo and Motus

JEROME Espejo's feet in wet tutu

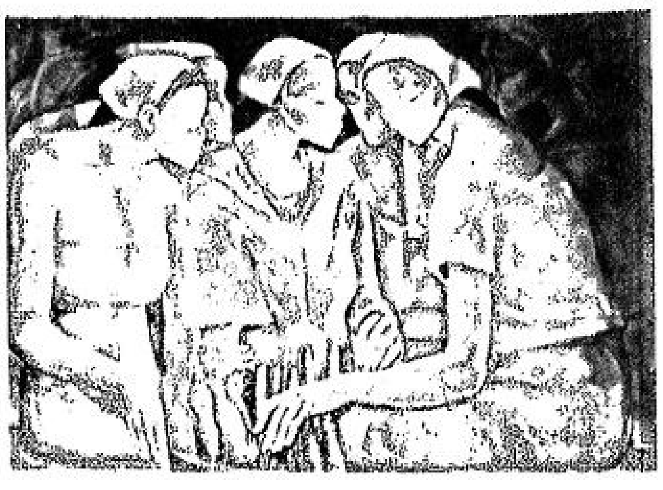

OSIAS Barroso and the Espejo brothers—Ed, Jeff and Jerome


THE PHOTOGRAPHER with Macuja and Barroso

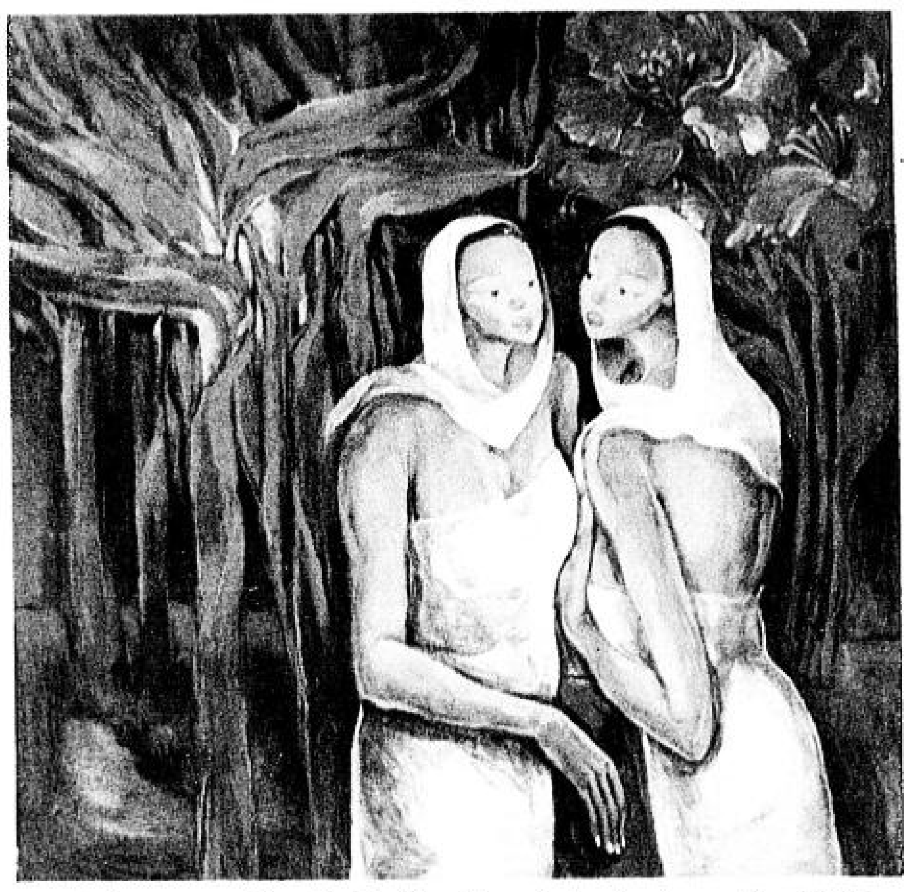
LYDIA VELASCO CRUZ

Seething with sexual irreverence but quintessentially religious

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor



"MGA Usal na Dasal"



"PUTI ng Kaputian"

SHE HAS repeatedly painted women in all their radiantly overpowering presence, a strange amalgam of romantic and erotic power. She has never ceased to be fascinated by them.

For Lydia Velasco Cruz, the subject offers a seemingly inexhaustible trove of obsessive-compulsive pleasures, portraits of carnality and spirituality merging as one and defiantly transgressing borders and boundaries.

Since she quit her advertising work and retired from corporate life nearly a decade ago, Velasco Cruz has taken up painting full-time, showing zest and stamina quite unusual for a woman her age, and who also happens to be wife, mother and grandmother.

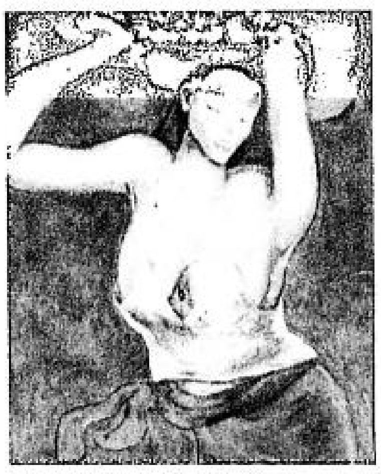
Her oeuvre, all charged with profusely expressionistic fervor, best captures the artist's palpably radiant persona, exuding a wildly effervescent spirit yet infused with a strong religious center.

In her current show titled "Mujer Indigena" (Art Space, Glorietta, until Oct. 17), Velasco Cruz focuses on women whose indigenous brand of feminine allure is both folkloric and irreverently sensual at the same time. These women bear close affinity to the women of senior artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho—both in spirit and configuration—yet there is clearly something that sets the two artists apart not merely in their time zone but also in their worldviews.

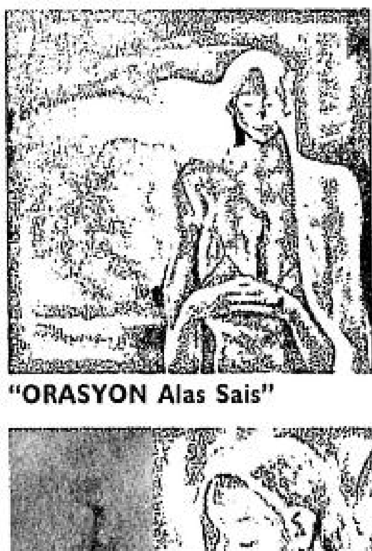
For, unlike those of Magsaysay-Ho, the women of Velasco Cruz are starkly sensual in their mien and appeal, strong and independent of character, smug, self-fulfilled creatures even in, or more aptly because of, the absence of men.

As has been pointed out, these women of the earth are perhaps closer to Gauguin's Polynesian women, with their ample mounds of flesh, their dignified stance whether singly or collectively, and their utterly seductive poses no matter if they are in prayerful repose while lighting candles, or engaged in idle chatter while they hawk their produce.

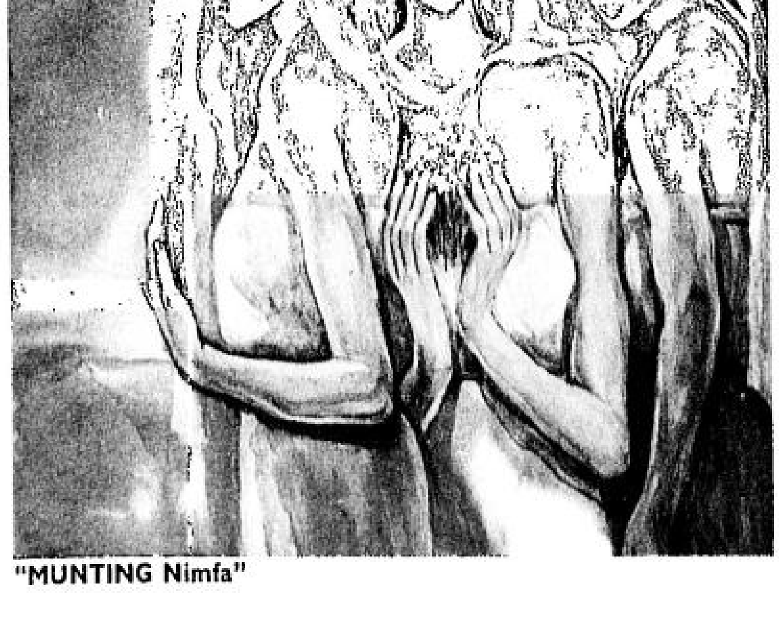
Their bodily expressions likewise betray Gauguin-like anatomical presence: wide, hunched-up and almost masculine shoulders, finely toned arms and legs, and breasts that are full, voluptuous and indeed, prominently large and expressive.



"MAY Pupula Pa Ba?"



"ORASYON Alas Sais"



"MUNTING Nimfa"

In the work "Sa Laot Irog Ko," we see four women, obviously young wives awaiting their fishermen-husbands to return from the sea, quietly engaging themselves in chatter, perhaps to kill time. Yet they don't seem idle at all, since the scene has been blocked quite dynamically, and the women's poses reveal certain idiosyncratic qualities that we don't normally associate with fishwives.

In "Mga Usal na Dasal," there are more women than can be easily discerned in the foreground, but in their colorful bandannas and plunging, loose blouses, their thoughts seem to wander farther away where their vespers would not take them.

Primal colors seem to steer the emotions of the women of Velasco Cruz—the women's long, fleshy torsos captured by a preponderance of reds, whites and blues as in "May Pupula Pa Ba?" The colors allude perhaps to the Philippine flag, as personified by this dusky maiden with a tray of flowers aloft on her head.

In contrast, the artist settles for white as emblematic color in "Puti ng Kaputian," where she portrays two women clad in shimmering white drapery, their innocence counter-pointed by the oversized bird-of-paradise and blue *gumamela* in the background.

Easily the most hauntingly arresting piece in the show has only one woman as subject. Her eyes downcast, her face partly covered by a diaphanous veil, this is the portrait of woman as temptress, and while she holds a lighted candle close to her breast, she looks even more seductive in a thinly strapped, plunging red dress.

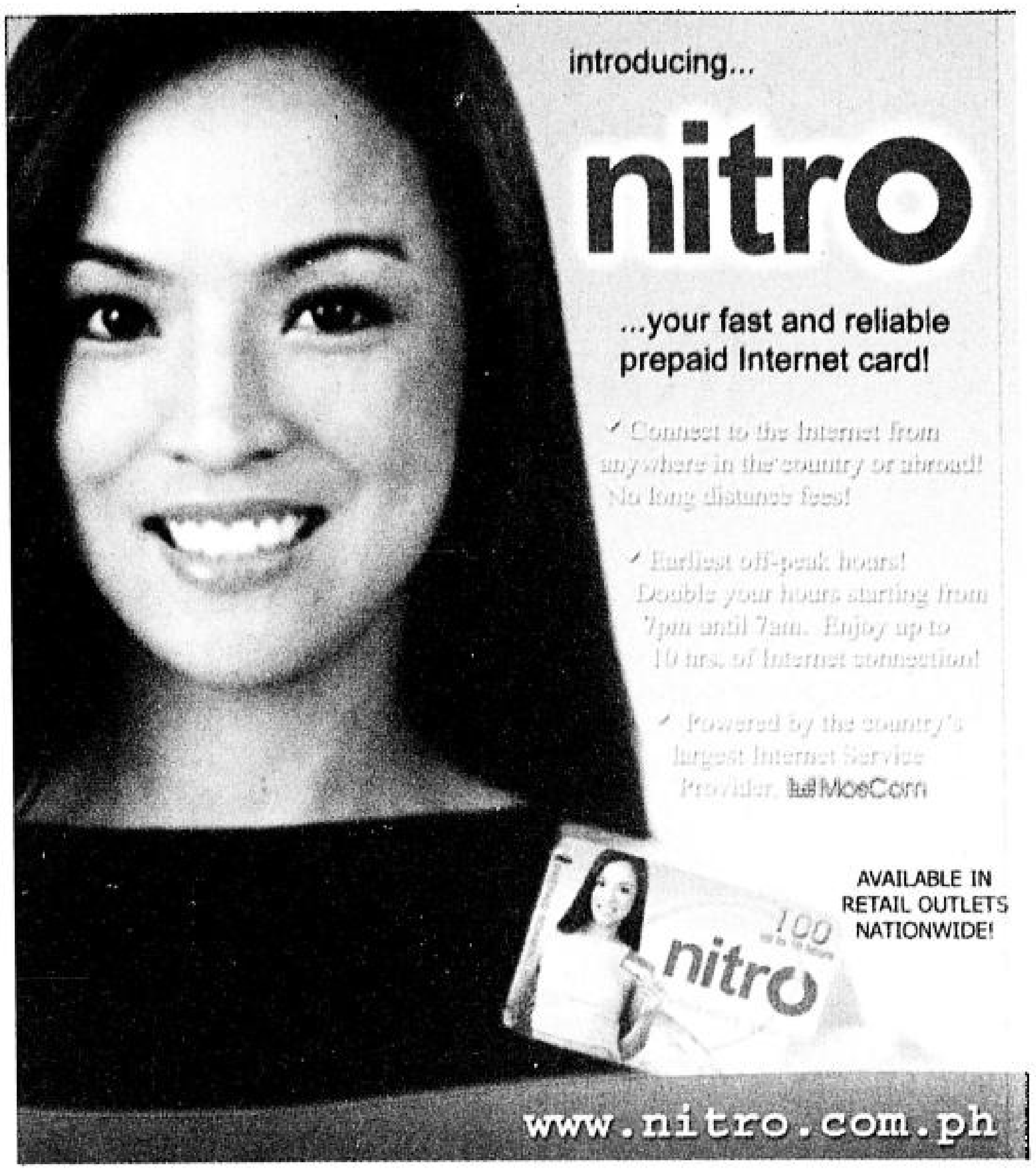
This piece is irreverently called "Orasyon Alas Sais," in reference to the hour of the Angelus, when the mind normally turns to prayer, a time reserved for meditating on the day just about to end.

While the artist has zealously explored the subject in show after show over the past years, she has not failed to amuse us with her shifting dalliance with the female body.

In the past, she was more astute in her rendering of women of the working class, such as those large canvases she showed in time for the Centennial celebration. Through time, her interest in physiognomy waned even as she became more enamored with the other facet of sexuality.

As the women of Lydia Velasco Cruz amply demonstrate, there is more to woman than just plain sexuality. And there remain more mysteries to unravel about women, by an artist who knows her subject inside out.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com



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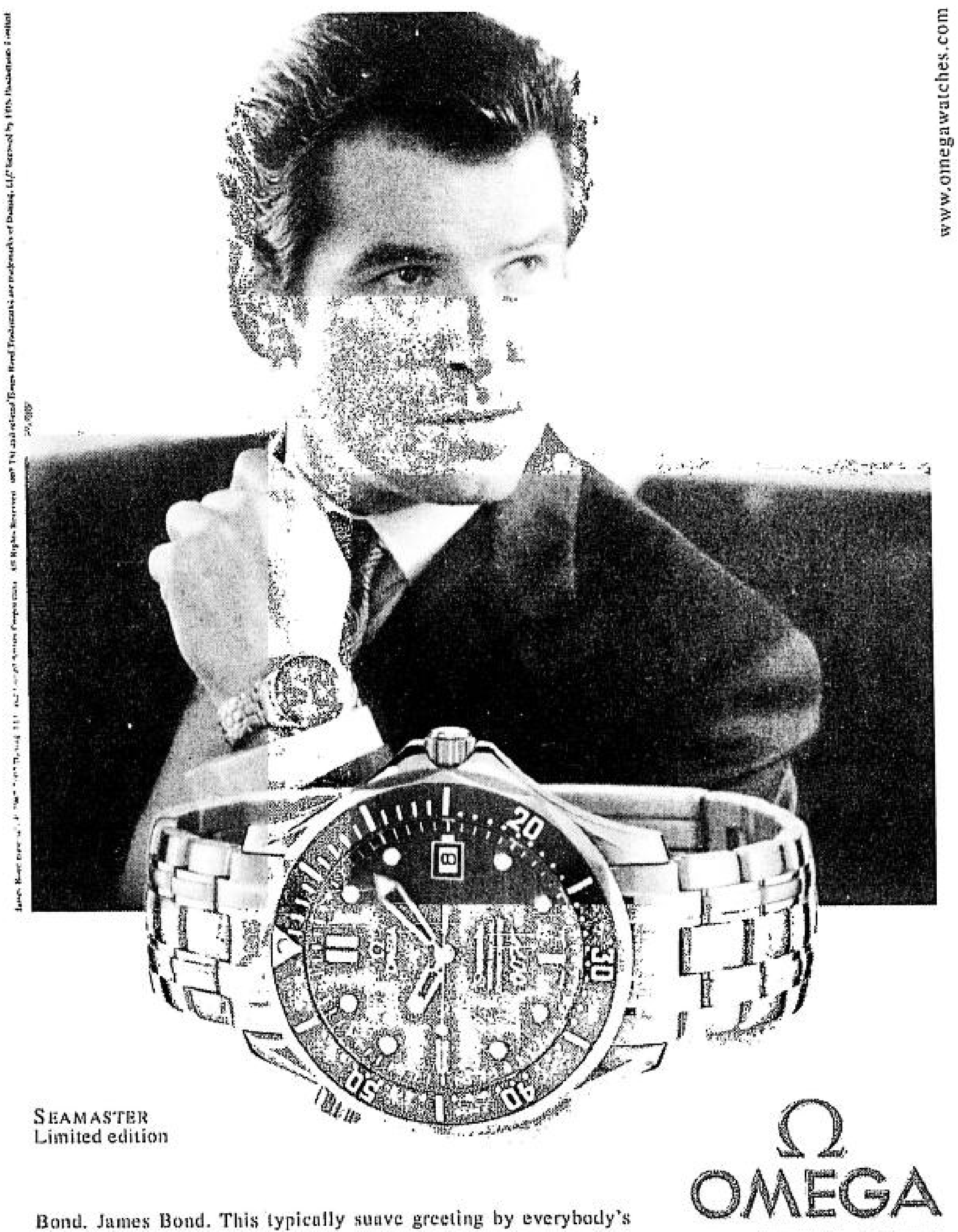

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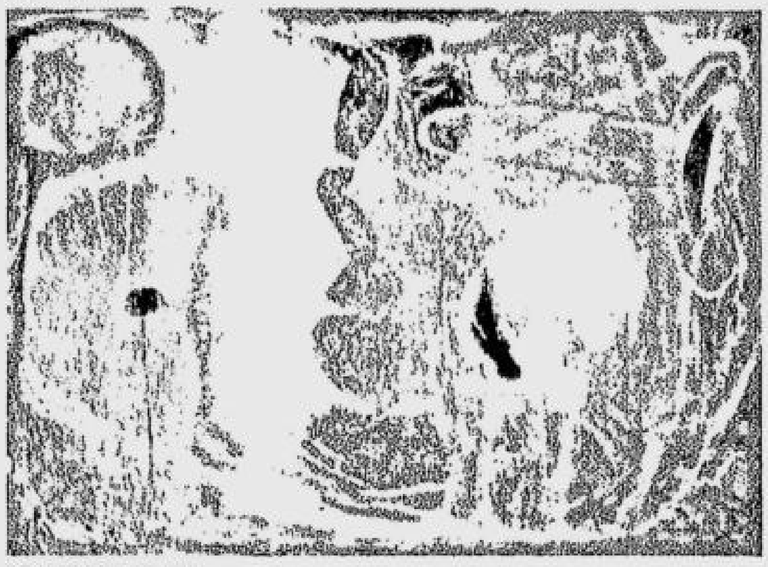
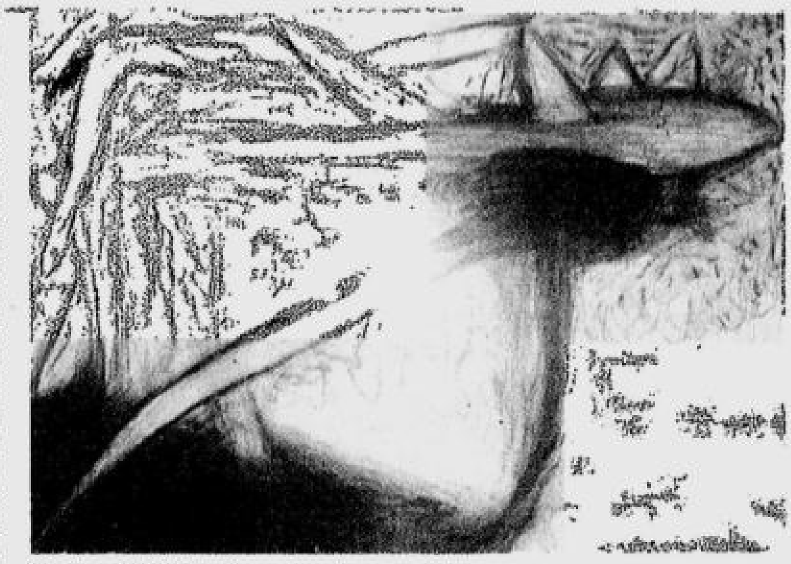


"ORANGE Nail"



"X Is + Working"

THE ARTIST: Cerebral yet emotionally intense

Grand introspections from Rock Drilon

By Lisa Ito
Contributor

AFTER HE started exhibiting in 1974, Rock Drilon's first successful forays into figuration and two-dimensional imagery associated with pop art evolved into abstract expressionism. Transcending his earlier inclinations toward symbolism and representational commentary, Drilon has worked toward heightened self-expression through chromatic abstraction and established his gestural painting as a process of catharsis.

Now renowned for his cerebral and introspective yet emotionally intense abstraction, Drilon presents to the public works documenting his visual reflections and responses to various personal sojourns throughout his career as an artist.

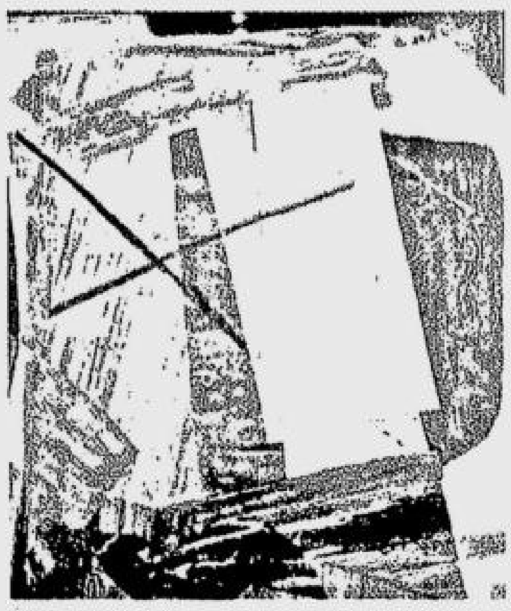
Titled "Selected Works (1976 to Present)," the exhibit at the Aresi Bar and Restaurant (corner of Tomas Morato and Eugenio Lopez Streets, QC) features paintings and drawings from Drilon's personal collection, as well as from a few collectors.

The paintings mark Drilon's personal milestones and experiences—the memory of trips with friends, the birth of his son, his reaction to a social upheaval. The paintings are more of personal narratives and testaments than excursions into form and materials.

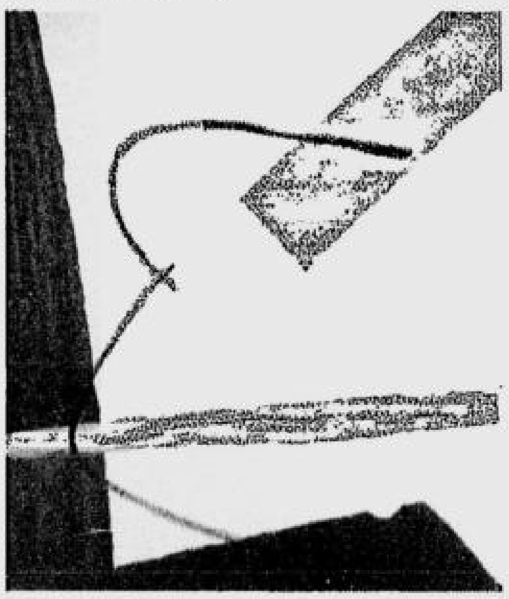
These works, done in intense moments—whether in disturbance, joy or exaltation—are Drilon's personal documentation and response to events and the times. He likewise includes a recent painting to "capsulize the present."

Gamut of emotions

Looking back, the works allow Drilon to resurrect the gamut of emotions associated with such memories of the past. Some works are direct responses to specific events within the artist's life.



"SHARE your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality"



"A LOVING atmosphere in your home is the foundation of your life"

"Luigi's Birthing" (1994) was conceived right after the birth of his and his wife Ces' youngest child. The work is created with the artist's signature brushstrokes. What strikes the viewer, apart from the size of the painting, is the luminosity and sense of movement emanating from Drilon's inchoate forms, signifying a frenetic period of intense joy and celebration.

Drilon shows his joy in all of his four sons in his large-scale "Birthing Paintings." In the following years, Drilon's new role as a father is reinforced and complemented by his paintings. Fondly calling these "babysitting works," the paintings done in between feeding time and changing diapers also show his attempts to teach the children.

Incorporating basic forms and shapes, primary colors and an air of playfulness, his works of this period turn away from the brooding erotic representations and pop imageries of his youth.

The work "Alphabet Painting" (1988) is a product of these years spent participating in his sons' formative days. More vibrant and more positive and radiant air begins to permeate his canvases—a characteristic his works retain until now.

Unconscious symbolism

Other paintings convey an unconscious symbolism resulting from personal response to societal events. Explicit political reference on Edsa People Power was the last thing he had in mind when he created his work "No. 56" in 1985. However, looking back, he found the work's central image—lime-green polyp-like forms emerging out of a green box—as subtle personal responses to the situation then.

His earlier depictions of these same forms were inexplicably tied, boxed-in and often ensnared. Only later, upon reflection on what these meant in consonance to the times, did the meanings emerge.

At the same time, Drilon was establishing the jeepney as a distinct national pop icon. He, however, stopped the series in the early '90s as a rebellion against its popularity.

> His gestural painting is a process of catharsis, personal narratives, testaments and documentations

Other works speak of the history of his various explorations into form and concept. "Meter" (1992), a charcoal triptych created during his days as director of Kanlungan ng Sining Gallery, is part of his automatic drawings of the past decade.

"Purple Line" (1991) reflects the different motifs and visual devices Drilon has utilized throughout his career—brain-like forms of the early '80s, organic shapes and textures juxtaposed with lines, planes and an array of textures and colors.

More time and inclination for focused reflection, perhaps, has influenced the themes of Drilon's recent works. His "Prayer Paintings" in 1997 is an act of "offering the process"—as the act of painting is a prayer in itself.

Such a bent toward introspection continued until the turn of the millennium, with his "Instructions for Life" paintings, the titles of the works coming from the Dalai Lama's adages on life.

The exhibit is a testament to the artist's personal sojourns. The show creates a narrative that tells of the transformations from anguish, isolation and searching, to contentment, companionship and fulfillment in the present.

Rock Drilon will open an exhibit of his new works at Crucible on Oct. 10

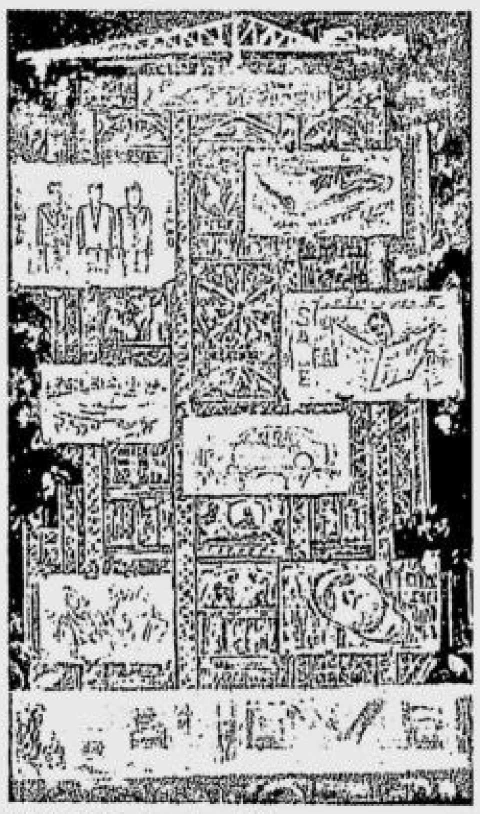
Images from a vanishing place

By Constantino C. Tejero

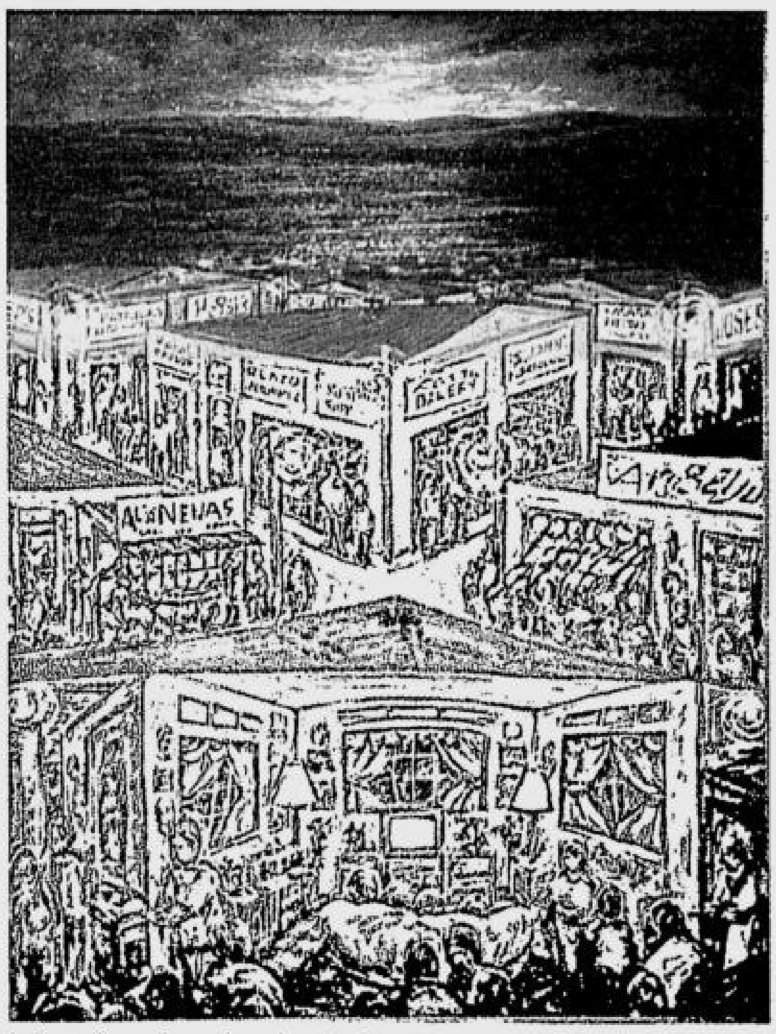
ANTIPOLO used to be the place where one goes to at night to gaze down on the glittering lights of Metro Manila, or gaze up at the stars through clear skies.

Now it is the site being gazed at, a subject for scrutiny, at least by artist Ferdinand Ambrose Montemayor in a small exhibit called "Lupa," held recently in West Gallery at Artlane, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Montemayor, a fine arts graduate from the University of the Philippines, is a member of the group of Antipolo artists, Salingpusa. Growing up in that hilly place, he has seen how commercialization has transformed his sleepy little town into a bustling city. This became the inspiration and subject of the four pieces in oil on canvas in the show.



"BELIEVE, Konstrukt"



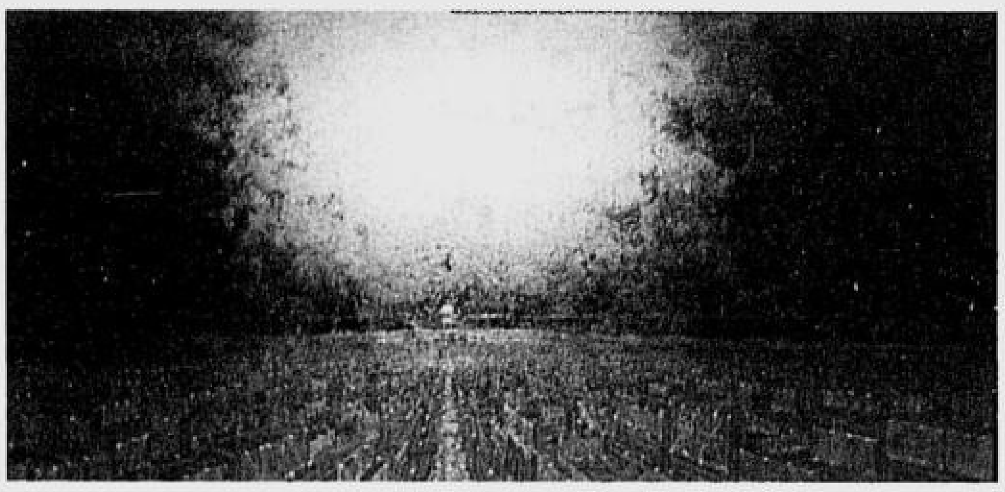
"KABAYANAN"

"With the commercialization of what used to be my little hometown comes the influx of people, reduced to faceless consuming creatures," says the artist. "They just blend with the landscape, moving with the flow of the traffic. Is this the way we like to live? Does living in high-rise, box-type houses makes us any happier, or more fulfilled?"

He explains that the exhibit's title can mean "anything from 'our home' to 'a vacant lot,' from something we truly value to something that is just there lying around. I am sure, if we don't fight for it enough, it will be taken away."

Expressionist blurs

On the canvas Montemayor composes his figures as expressionist blurs, rendered in rich tones and dense colors, the paint thickly applied. The images look sinister even if warm colors are used, more so when slate or gray predominates. The figures swarm.

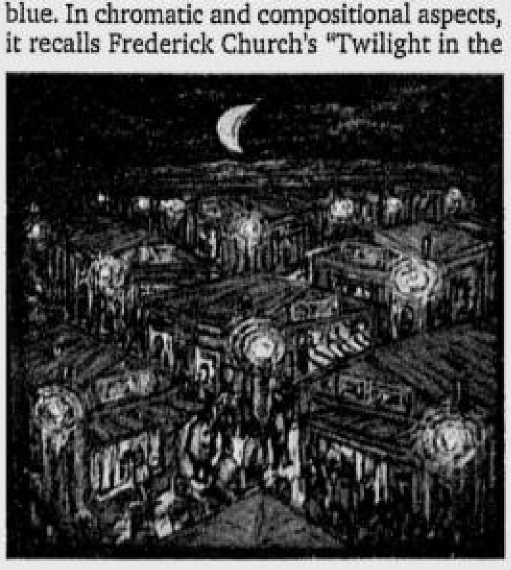


"LUPA (Land Series)"

The artist admits to using bright colors to call attention to the image of the river, to show how "land resources have been extended to their farthest end, closing in on the bodies of water."

In "Kabayanan," the canvas is divided into three planes: the river and the mountain range under a sky filled with sunset hues; the commercial center of beauty parlors, bakeries, electronics and auto supply shops, nightclubs and restaurants, *sari-sari* stores, lit by neon and street lights; a house's living room brimming with home and family life, the furniture, appliances and people in it lit by lampshades, fluorescent and the TV screen.

Each horizontal division of the canvas is saturated with gold, red, yellow and orange, flecked with black and white, and tinged with blue. In chromatic and compositional aspects, it recalls Frederick Church's "Twilight in the Wilderness" with its river-sky reflection.



"24 HRS."

Desolate cityscape

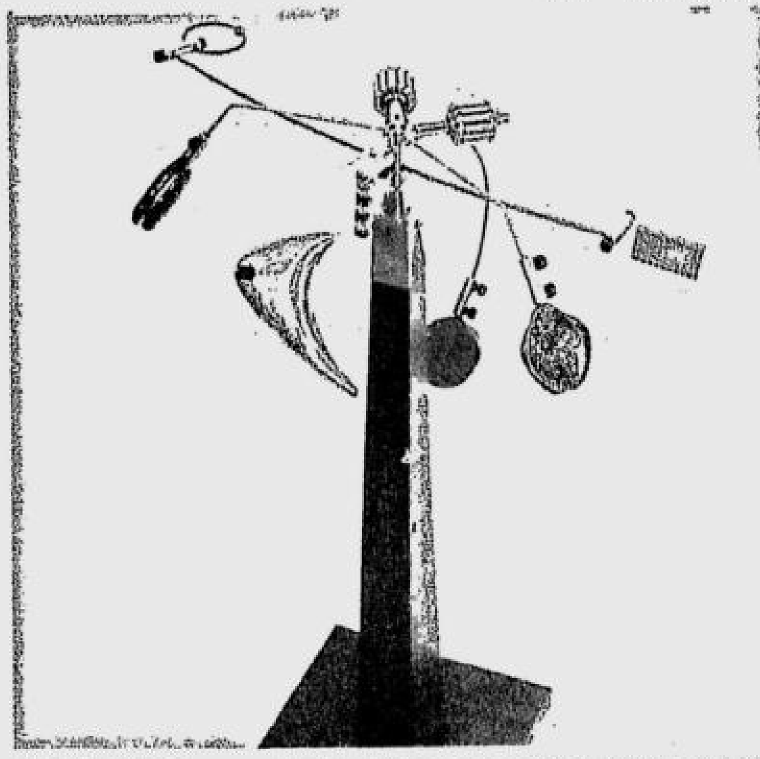
"24 Hrs." is just as crammed with reddish-gold images. It is a nightscape of violet sky, blue crescent moon, sketchily painted commercial structures and human figures outlined in ink-blue and filled with red, then illumed by the yellow and gold from street lamps and building interiors.

"Lupa (Land Series)," the biggest piece at 40" x 96", is a desolate cityscape at night, with a color base of gray and black. About two-thirds of the canvas is filled with a black sky, with a white full moon half-hidden by a hazy line of cloud a little above a flat mountain range.

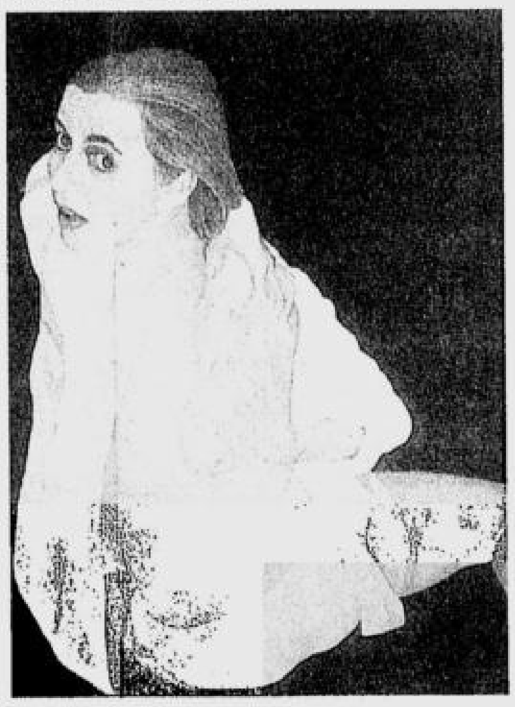
The rest of the canvas is crammed with gray box-like structures punctuated by white dots as points of light. Cutting vertically across the center, toward the moon, is the deserted thoroughfare. The gloom is rendered more intense by the monochrome.

"Believe, Konstrukt" is composed like an altarpiece, with the triangle above as pediment and the rectangle below as base. It is, in fact, the steel framing of a building construction, of gray and midnight-blue, hung with rectangles painted with a cadaverous face, a winged shoe, a car, a man reading a newspaper, three men on a row, rendered in green, gold, orange, yellow.

The composition recalls the cellular grid in Paul Klee's "Picture of a City (Red-Green Accents)." It is Montemayor's deepest lament over his hometown, sacrificed at the altar of commerce and finance. And we weep with him.



ARNEL BORJA presents "Theopneustos 2" at the newly relocated DLSU Art Gallery on the 2/F of the Enrique T. Yuchengco Center on the De la Salle University (DLSU) campus on Taft Avenue.



"UNTITLED (monsters)," by Marina Nuñez, oil on canvas

A bold artist's statement

By Constantino C. Tejero

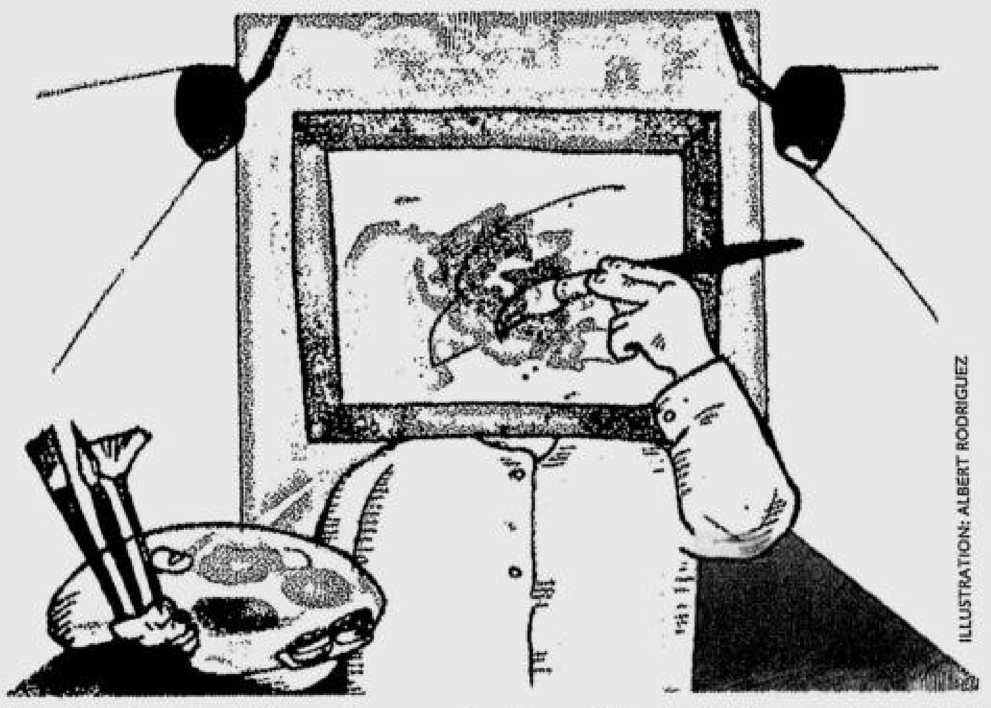


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A STARTLING art exhibit is ongoing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines until tomorrow. It is called "Curator's Choice."

We went to the Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo (Small Gallery) on the fourth floor of the CCP expecting to partake of a visual feast, and were confronted by a few small framed pictures, several round objects perching on pedestals, and white blank walls.

'Is this all?' was all we could think, feeling like the boy upon seeing the emperor's new clothes. The images are interesting, but the concept is more interesting.

This is the handiwork of Eduardo Enriquez, in collaboration with fellow artists Aba Lluch Dalena, Christina Dy, Lyra Abueg Garcellano, Katya Guerrero and Wire Tuazon. These are young multimedia artists associated with the avant-garde group Surrounded by Water.

Here, again, as is common to this group, we are face to face with conceptual art, whose meaning or purpose is left floating for the viewer to comprehend or appreciate. In other words, it's a mystery.

Problematic relationship

It still remains a mystery despite the artist's statement: "Anyone who makes art and is actively involved in the art scene is well aware of the fact that the artist's life is a far cry from the glamorous portrayals made popular by film, print and television. The posh gallery openings, the generous collectors and the romantic lifestyles are largely fictional concepts. Many are unaware of the gauntlet of influences an artwork is subjected to before it is deemed fit for public view.

"The role of curators as matchmakers between artists and art patrons and institutions can prove problematic. Despite the reputation of artists as individualistic creators, there are those who give in to the curator's suggestions, beneficial or otherwise. For some artists, the fear of displeasing someone who is supposedly doing one a favor is enough motivation for one to compromise one's personal works of art.

"Despite the fact that curators benefit from the talent of the artists that they take under their wings, little mention is made of this, and the Old School distance between artists and curators is perpetuated. The supposed powers of artists pale considerably when compared to the influence of curators (as well as collectors and others who determine the artist's sales)."

Spotlighted in the middle of the white rectangular room is a row of white and gray box-type pedestals topped by five wine-colored velvet cushions encased in glass. Nestling on each cushion are two small balls wrapped in canvas and painted green, white, maroon, orange, beige, slate-blue.

Five small pictures framed in glass with beige backing are arranged in a row on the wall in front of the pedestals. One appears to be a landscape of swirling clouds and a mountain range in gray and blue-green, done in scratch technique. Another shows four circles of varying sizes on a black background accentuated by pink and brown drippings.

Extent of collaboration

The third picture has an illustration of a heart colored blue, against a wash of brown and black with yellow and green drippings and inscription of "Life" and "Doppler" in large green letters. The fourth is a field of black with spattering of blue and streaks of red. On the fifth picture is a curving line halving the canvas into an ochre plane with a brown fissure and a green elongated oblong form with a pinkish base and a gray and violet head.

The artworks are uniformly done. There's no identification whatsoever as to who created them. Whose works are these? Who is the curator, and who the artist?

There's not even a note as to the extent of collaboration of Enriquez's fellow artists. Did they create some or all of these artworks, or just help in the concept? We understand that here an artist is curating the works of his fellow artists. If so, what is the extent of his role as curator?

Enriquez says this exhibit "attempts to bring attention to one of the many perils that artists must anticipate in this societal context." Here, ownership of the artwork has been erased, individual creativity has been compromised, and the dividing line between art-making and curatorial practice has been blurred.

In this respect, the exhibit has succeeded in raising questions on "issues of control and authorship—power relationships governing art practice," and in addressing "the need to bring audiences to a more informed level of comprehension of art-making."

The strongest visual jab, however, can be found in two opposite corners of the gallery. In each, a spotlight casts a pool on the white wall, and there we see... the emperor's new clothes.

— —

VISUAL ARTS

'Keep Your Distance' at GSIS, Santos at West, 'Artist for a Cause' at Enterprise

"KEEP Your Distance," an international traveling exhibit, features the works of seven young artists, Charles Jeffery (United Kingdom), Sutee Kunavichayanont (Thailand), Philippe Laleu (France), Christine Monceau (France), Marina Nuñez (Spain), Luisa Rabbia (Italy) and Kunio Sekiguchi (Japan), who developed a unique project combining different art mediums: video, photo, installation, performance and painting. The exhibit will be on view at the Museo ng Sining, GSIS Headquarters Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

JOSÉ Santos III mounts an exhibit of recent paintings, "Acts," at the West Gallery, Glorietta 4, Makati City, Oct. 10-22; and West Gallery, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. The works show ballet dancers in vivid, unrestrained and colorful compositions. Call 752-7028 to 29.

A UNIQUE art presentation featuring Angel Cacnio, Michael Cacnio, Jun Martinez and Elmer Gernale, will be mounted on Oct. 14-18 at the Enterprise Center (6766 corner Ayala Ave. and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City). "Artist for a Cause" is for the benefit of the National Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

ARCHITECT and University of Santo Tomas professor Manuel Noche tackles "Urban Facelift: Changing the City Landscape" at the Ayala Museum on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. Noche, an architectural historian, will specifically talk on urban planning during the American period. The lecture is part of the series "Zero-In: Private Art, Public Lives," an exhibit-forum series collaboration among Ateneo Gallery, Ayala Museum and Lopez Museum. Call 812-1191 to 95, loc. 103.

MANS Gonzales will open his first one-man exhibit at the Art Gallery, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, coinciding with his 35th birthday on Oct. 18. Gonzales' works were also included in the exhibition "Contemporary Art of the Philippines" in Hudson Bay, Toronto, Canada, in 1992. In 1999, he was given the Citizen's Award by the Gintong Parangal ng Malabon. The exhibit runs until Oct. 28.

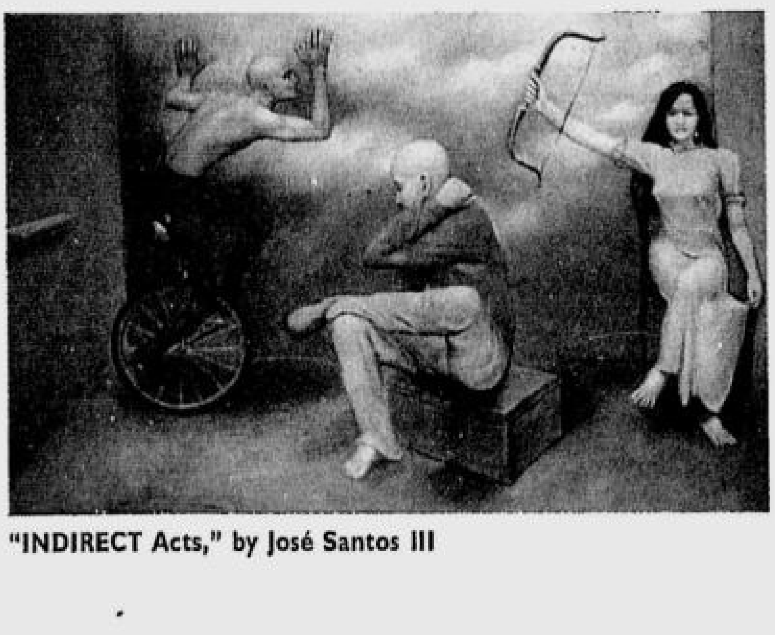
CRIS Cruz delights in the still life, with an exacting eye for composition, a mastery of color and balance, and a skillful handling of watercolor, in his exhibit until Oct. 22 at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City.

CAFÉ Pulilan presents "TATS: A Retrospective," the latest solo exhibit of veteran Baliuag artist Reynato "Tats" Villanueva. Running until Oct. 31, the show features 14 paintings from the artist's rural landscapes in the '60s to his historical works in the '90s. Café Pulilan is at 365 Calle San Francisco, Pulilan, Bulacan. Call (0917) 617-53-87.

HIRAYA Gallery presents "Images of a Tantric Dance" on Oct 19. A joint exhibition of Yasmin Almonte and Dave Lantz, the exhibit will run until Nov. 12. Hiraya Gallery is located at 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call 523-3331.

ALLIANCE Française de Manille presents "Arts Croises" featuring sculptures by Impy Pilapil and paintings by Edmund Bendijo. Exhibit opening is at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 14, at the Alliance Française de Manille's TotalFinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. The exhibit runs until Nov. 8. Call 895-7585 or 895-7441.

ARCHITECT-turned-ceramic tile painter Bart Aguas will mount his second exhibit, "Art Tiles 2," at Gallery 139, Glorietta 4, Makati City, on Oct.25-Nov.6; and at Gallery 139, Megamall, Nov. 7-19. The exhibit will showcase innovations and experimentations on the texture of tiles as the artist tries to capture the traditional vintage look.



"INDIRECT Acts," by José Santos III

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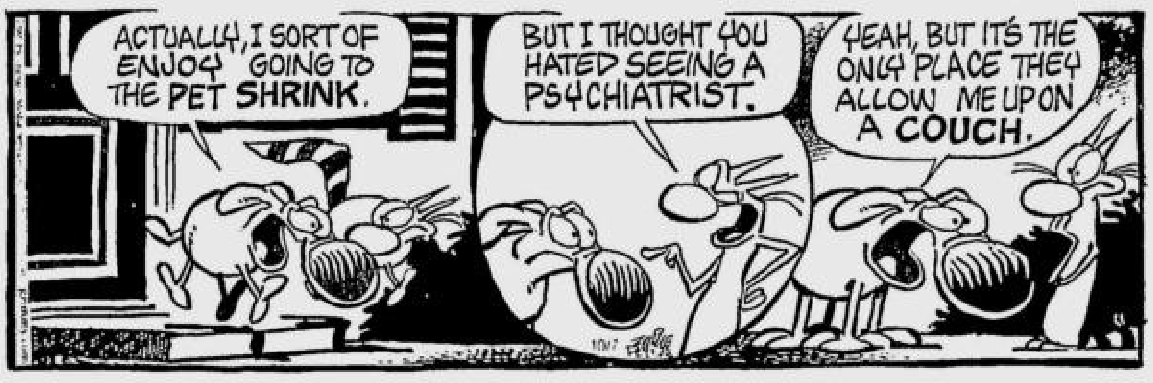
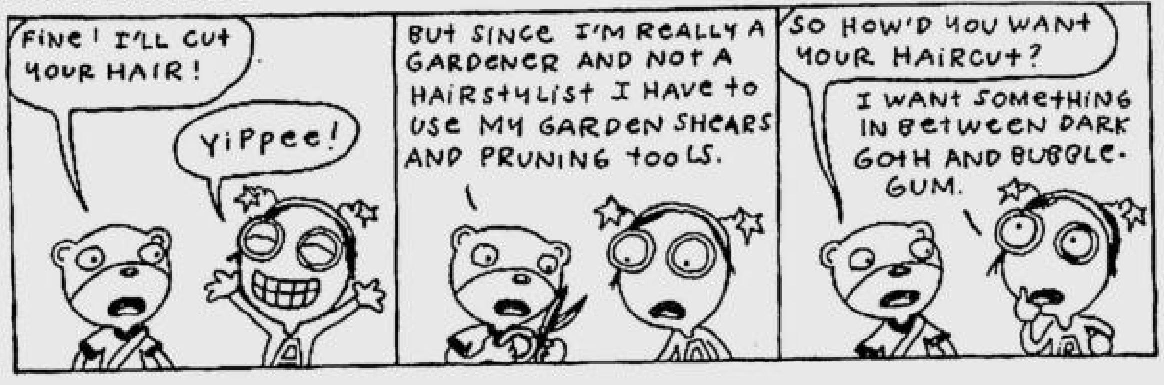
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ACTUALLY, I SORT OF ENJOY GOING TO THE PET SHRINK.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU HATED SEEING A PSYCHIATRIST.
YEAH, BUT IT'S THE ONLY PLACE THEY ALLOW ME UP ON A COUCH.
10/7

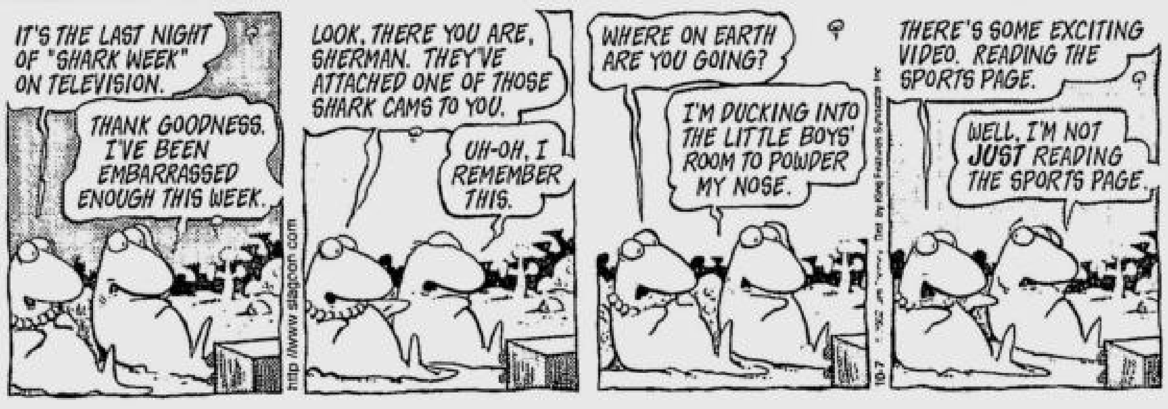
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


FINE! I'LL CUT YOUR HAIR!
YIPPEE!
BUT SINCE I'M REALLY A GARDENER AND NOT A HAIRSTYLIST I HAVE TO USE MY GARDEN SHEARS AND PRUNING TOOLS.
SO HOW'D YOU WANT YOUR HAIRCUT?
I WANT SOMETHING IN BETWEEN DARK GOTH AND BUBBLE-GUM.

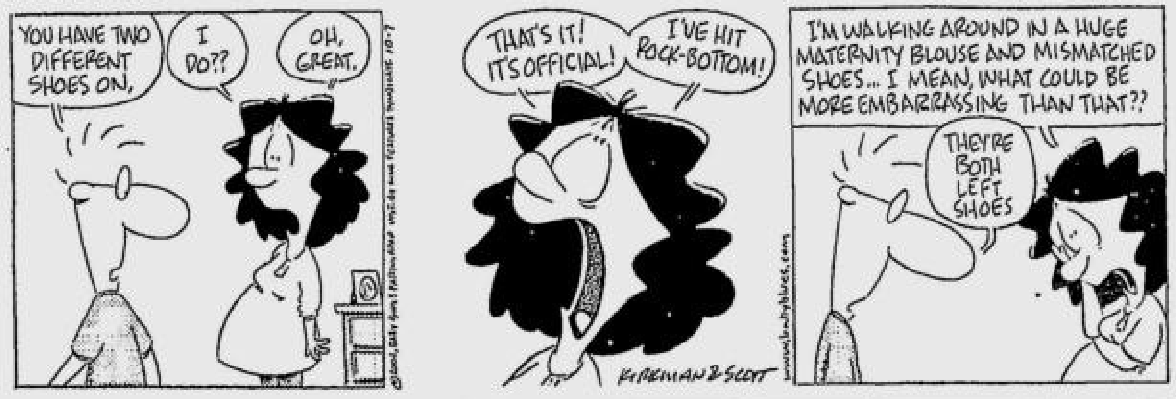
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


IT'S THE LAST NIGHT OF "SHARK WEEK" ON TELEVISION.
THANK GOODNESS. I'VE BEEN EMBARRASSED ENOUGH THIS WEEK.
LOOK. THERE YOU ARE, SHERMAN. THEY'VE ATTACHED ONE OF THOSE SHARK CAMS TO YOU.
UH-OH, I REMEMBER THIS.
WHERE ON EARTH ARE YOU GOING?
I'M DUCKING INTO THE LITTLE BOYS' ROOM TO POWDER MY NOSE.
THERE'S SOME EXCITING VIDEO. READING THE SPORTS PAGE.
WELL, I'M NOT JUST READING THE SPORTS PAGE.
http://www.slagoon.com
10-7

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU HAVE TWO DIFFERENT SHOES ON.
I DO??
OH, GREAT.
THAT'S IT! IT'S OFFICIAL!
I'VE HIT ROCK-BOTTOM!
I'M WALKING AROUND IN A HUGE MATERNITY BLOUSE AND MISMATCHED SHOES... I MEAN, WHAT COULD BE MORE EMBARRASSING THAN THAT??
THEY'RE BOTH LEFT SHOES
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Mellencamp, Yo-Yo Ma, Toni Braxton, Christopher Norris

Happy Birthday: You'll be a pillar of strength this year. You will welcome any challenge that comes your way and you will consider the fact that people want to compete with you a compliment. Winning will be second nature bringing you success in all that you do. Your numbers are 8, 12, 14, 20, 35, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can anticipate the reappearance of old flames from your past. Don't be too eager to include them in your present circumstances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will meet a love interest through your associations at work. Get out there and interact with fellow employees. Your steadfastness and generosity will be admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Any individual alterations you make at this time will cost you big bucks. Amorous relationships can be forged at this time, but don't trust all that is said to you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your moodiness will cause your mate confusion. While you are so indecisive, you should be less vocal. Someone close to you may be able to shed some light on what is happening to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Broaden your circle of friends. Play the host and have others come into your home. People will appreciate not only the invitation, but also your generosity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Steer clear of collective money ventures. When going out, leave your wallet and credit cards at home. If you gamble, you'll lose that hard-earned cash.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your feelings will get the better of you. Don't let members of your household mentally abuse you. Instead, consider a night on the town with those you trust.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Change is essential. Explore methods to spruce up your house and to improve its appearance. Restoration and beautification will elevate the spirits of the entire family.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Although the people you will meet will be fascinating, don't believe all they tell you. They could be stringing you a line. Keep your money close to your chest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you follow acquaintances that go to extremes, you will find yourself in some compromising situations. Your chaotic feelings are creating obvious distress at an emotional level. Engage in competitive games for release.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Silent but wrathful anger will slowly consume you. Steer clear of anyone who wants to engage you in an altercation. Allow yourself to settle down before you address the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Handling the difficult situations of other individuals will be exacting. Your impulsiveness will get the better of you. You won't be able to hold your tongue and will probably make remarks you will later regret.

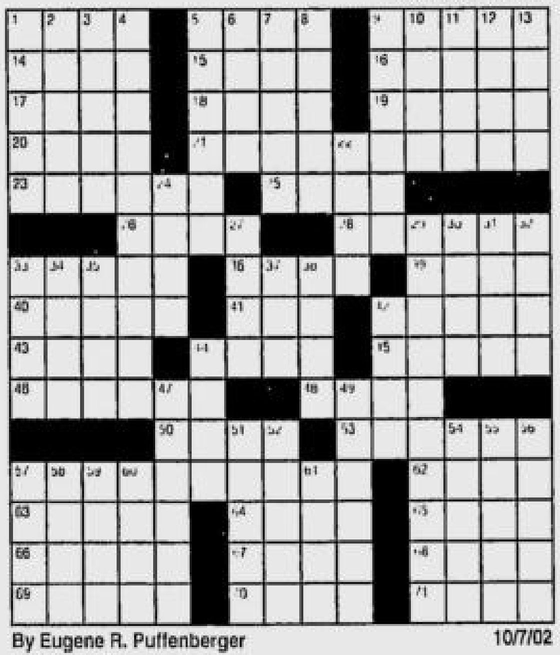
Birthday Baby: You will be a strong contender, never settling for second best. You are a doer and will always strive to make those around you proud.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Composer Alban
5 Allot
9 Applauds
14 Region
15 Gillette razor
16 Ancient Greek colony
17 Dutch South African
18 Membership fee
19 Class writing
20 Small whirlpool
21 "Mother Goose and Grimm" cartoonist
23 Nielsen or Howard
25 Close with a bang
26 First-class
28 Panted
33 Not together
36 Take a shine to
39 Composer Porter
40 Light wood
41 Med. procedure
42 Bullwinkle, e.g.
43 Therefore
44 Cash advance
45 Old anesthetic
46 Actress Durbin
48 Insect pest
50 Smell
53 Slip by
57 "B.C." cartoonist
62 Kind of pickle
63 Above it all
64 Fence the loot, e.g.
65 Indigo dye
66 Nurse Barton
67 Ceremonial practice
68 Manner
69 Gold measure
70 German river
71 British gun

DOWN
1 Tower of _
2 Eat away
3 Oboists' needs
4 "The Far Side" cartoonist
5 Maniacs
6 Ornamental case
7 Arduous journeys
8 Stand for a portrait?
9 Movie industry
10 Joe Orton play
11 Poker pot starter
12 Docking place
13 Talk back
22 Congressional aide
24 Small quantity
27 Ticklish doll
29 "Dilbert" cartoonist
30 "Winnie the __"
31 Otherwise
32 Forest ruminant
33 Tucked in for the night
34 Whittle
35 Pond scum
37 Levin or Gershwin
38 Royal ruler
42 Repast
44 Titled woman
47 Dieting adjective
49 Butterfly catcher
51 Chicago airport
52 Fanatical
54 Burgundy wine
55 Lose traction
56 Actress Burstyn
57 Trunk item
58 Earthenware jar
59 Icy frost
60 "Sleepless in Seattle" director Ephron
61 Anatomical network



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
10/7/02

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	I	D	E	R	S	■	S	A	L	A	M	I	S
P	A	R	A	S	O	L	■	T	R	I	B	U	N	E
I	S	O	L	A	T	E	■	O	L	D	S	T	E	R
R	A	N	T	■	H	E	A	V	E	■	T	A	R	P
E	L	M	O	■	S	P	I	E	S	■	A	N	T	E
A	L	A	N	S	■	I	R	S	■	S	I	T	I	N
S	E	N	S	I	B	L	Y	■	K	A	N	S	A	S
■	■	■	■	R	A	Y	■	B	I	N	■	■	■	■
P	A	T	T	E	D	■	H	A	N	D	B	A	G	S
E	T	H	O	S	■	I	I	C	■	S	U	C	R	E
O	W	E	D	■	M	I	N	K	S	■	S	C	A	N
N	O	R	D	■	I	N	D	R	I	■	T	E	N	D
I	R	E	L	A	N	D	■	E	L	M	O	N	T	E
E	S	S	E	N	C	E	■	S	T	O	U	T	E	R
S	T	A	R	T	E	R	■	T	S	E	T	S	E	S

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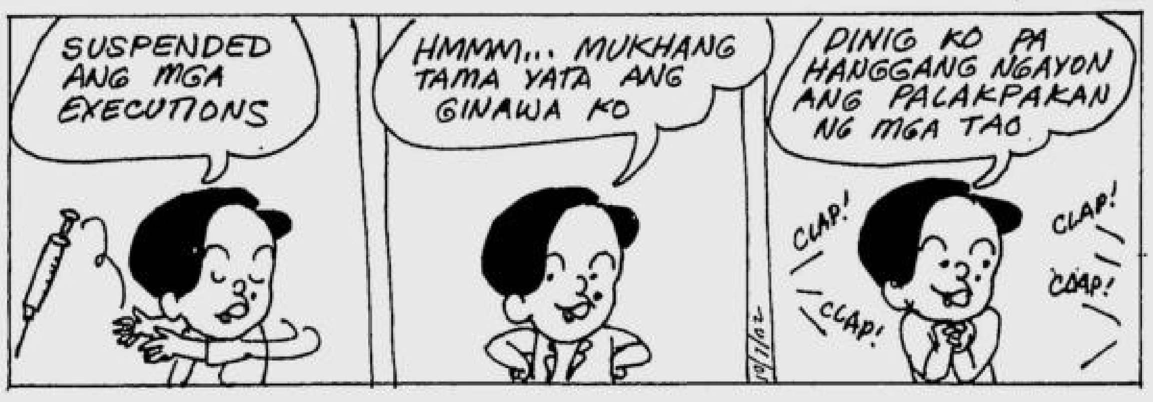
10/7/02

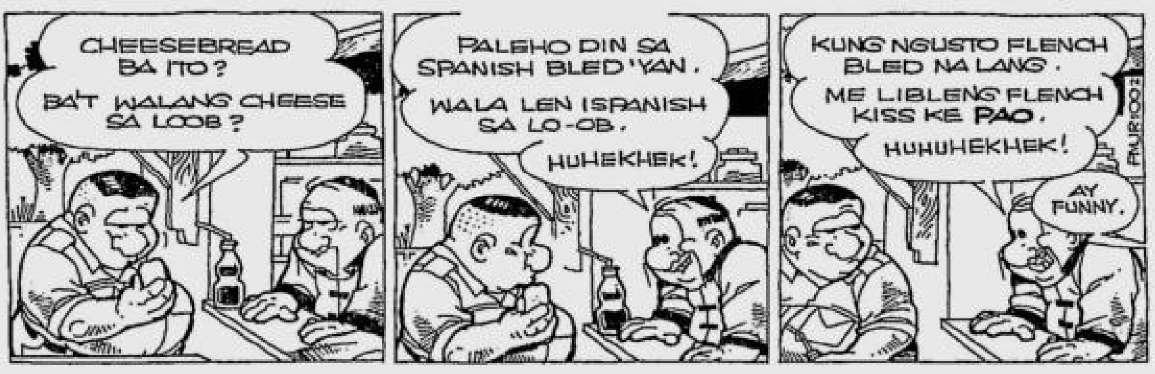
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SUSPENDED ANG MGA EXECUTIONS
HMMM... MUKHANG TAMA YATA ANG GINAWA KO
DINIG KO PA HANGGANG NGAYON ANG PALAKPAKAN NG MGA TAO
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!
CLAP!

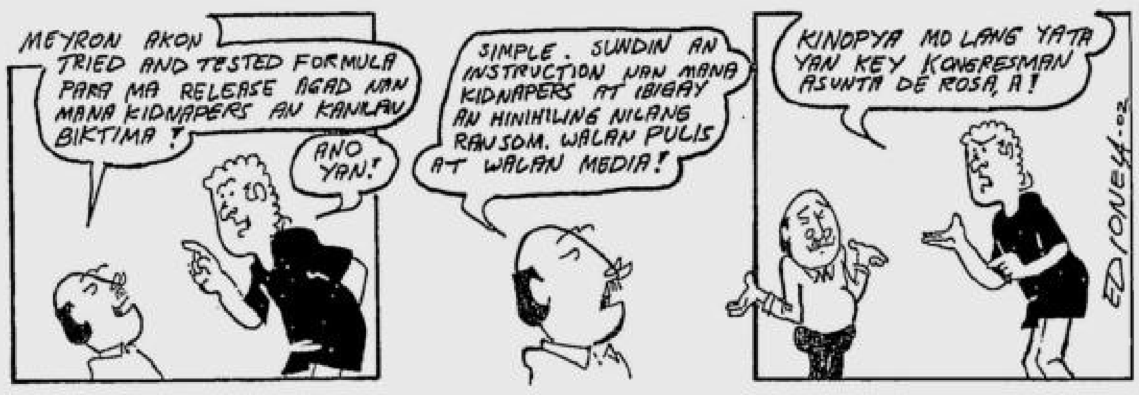
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


CHEESEBREAD BA ITO?
BA'T WALANG CHEESE SA LOOB?
PALEHO DIN SA SPANISH BLED 'YAN.
WALA LEN ISPANISH SA LO-OB.
HUHEKHEK!
KUNG NGUSTO FLENCH BLED NA LANG.
ME LIBLENG FLENCH KISS KE PAO.
HUHUHEKHEK!
AY FUNNY.

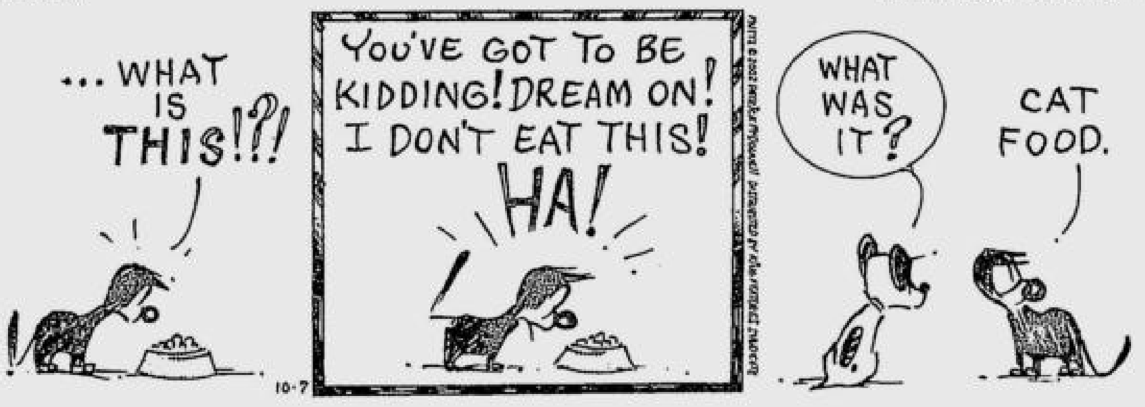
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MEYRON AKON TRIED AND TESTED FORMULA PARA MA RELEASE AGAD NAN MANA KIDNAPERS AN KANILAN BIKTIMA!
ANO YAN!
SIMPLE. SUNDIN AN INSTRUCTION NAN MANA KIDNAPERS AT IBIGAY AN HINIHILING NILANG RANSOM. WALAN PULIS AT WALAN MEDIA!
KINOPYA MO LANG YATA YAN KEY KONGRESMAN ASUNTA DE ROSA, A!
EDIONELA-02

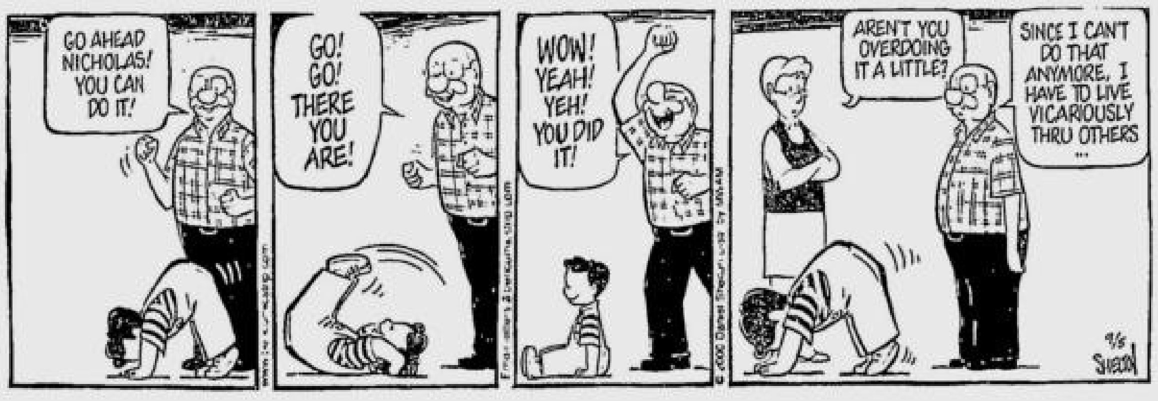
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


...WHAT IS THIS!?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! DREAM ON! I DON'T EAT THIS! HA!
WHAT WAS IT?
CAT FOOD.
10-7

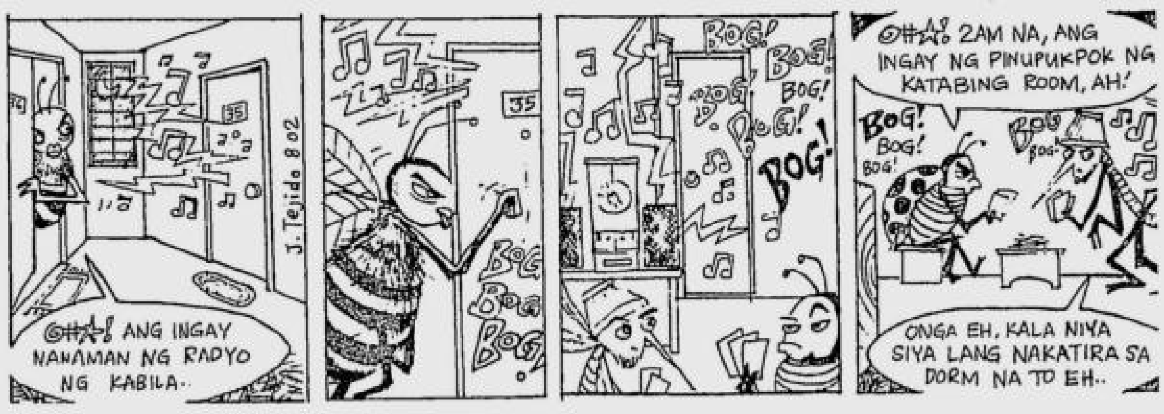
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GO AHEAD NICHOLAS! YOU CAN DO IT!
GO! GO! THERE YOU ARE!
WOW! YEAH! YEH! YOU DID IT!
AREN'T YOU OVERDOING IT A LITTLE?
SINCE I CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE, I HAVE TO LIVE VICARIOUSLY THRU OTHERS ...
SHELTON

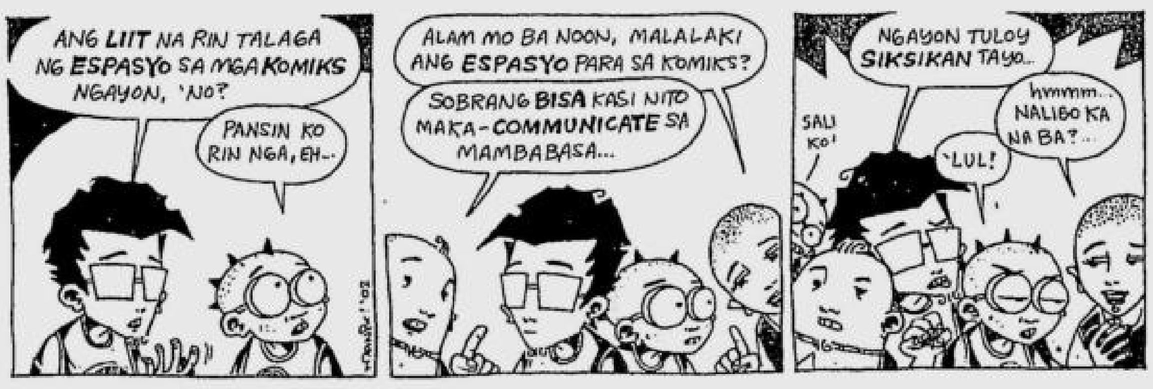
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


@#☆! ANG INGAY NANAMAN NG RADYO NG KABILA..
J. Tejido 8 02
35
BOG!
BOG!
BOG!
BOG!
@#☆! 2AM NA, ANG INGAY NG PINUPUKPOK NG KATABING ROOM, AH!
ONGA EH, KALA NIYA SIYA LANG NAKATIRA SA DORM NA 'TO EH..

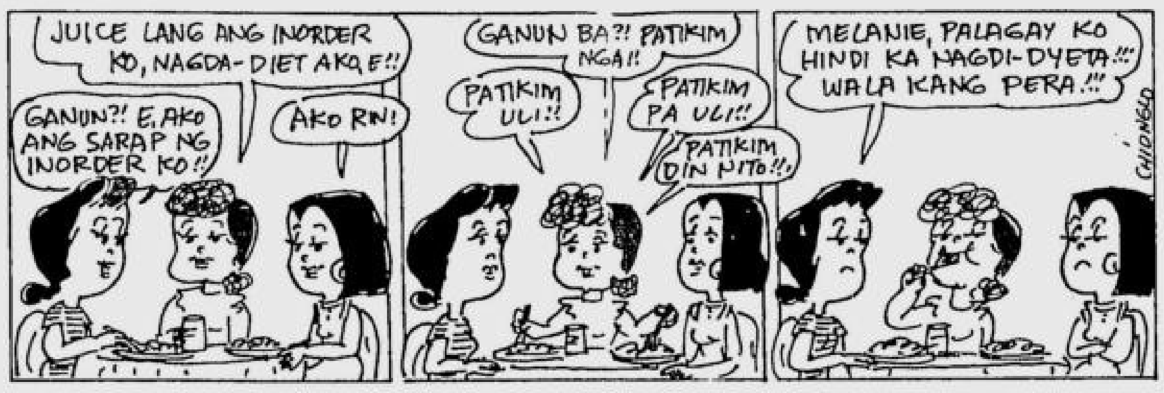
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG LIIT NA RIN TALAGA NG ESPASYO SA MGA KOMIKS NGAYON, 'NO?
PANSIN KO RIN NGA, EH..
ALAM MO BA NOON, MALALAKI ANG ESPASYO PARA SA KOMIKS?
SOBRANG BISA KASI NITO MAKA-COMMUNICATE SA MAMBABASA...
NGAYON TULOY SIKSIKAN TAYO..
SALI KO!
'LUL!
hmmm.. NALIGO KA NA BA?..

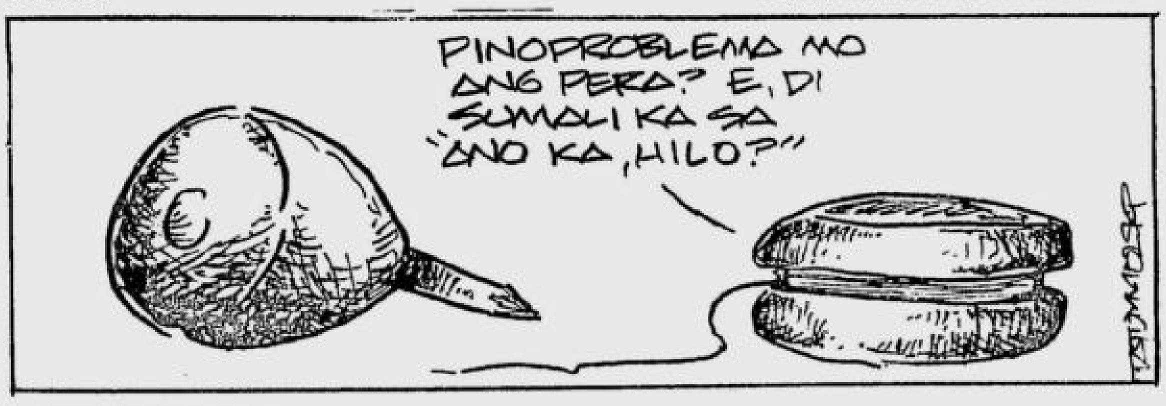
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JUICE LANG ANG INORDER KO, NAGDA-DIET AKO, E!!
GANUN?! E, AKO ANG SARAP NG INORDER KO!!
AKO RIN!
GANUN BA?! PATIKIM NGA!!
PATIKIM ULI!!
PATIKIM PA ULI!!
PATIKIM DIN NITO!!
MELANIE, PALAGAY KO HINDI KA NAGDI-DYETA!!! WALA KANG PERA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PINOPROBLEMA MO ANG PERA? E, DI SUMALI KA SA "ANO KA, HILO?"

UST Varsitarian holds Inkblots 2002, campus press workshop

TO PROMOTE excellence and foster camaraderie among campus journalists in the country, the Varsitarian, the 74-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2002: The Fourth National Journalism Fellowship on Oct. 24-25 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex.

The fellowship will consist of seminars in news writing, sports writing, investigative reporting, features writing, creative non-fiction, feature writing, lifestyle and culture writing, and campus paper management.

The seminar-workshops are useful to student writers, campus press advisers, high school journalism instructors, students and school officials wanting to put up their own papers, and everyone interested in improving campus journalism.

Resource speakers include Jesselyn Garcia-dela Cruz, editor in chief of the CBCP Monitor; Joaquin "Quinito" Henson, sports analyst and columnist of the Philippine Star; Luz Rimban, member of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism; Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, director of the University of the Philippines Press; Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz, managing editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine; Nestor Cuartero, entertainment editor of Tempo, and Lito Zulueta, sub-section editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The registration fee of P600 covers the workshop kit, supplementary materials, lunch and snacks during the two-day activity.

Highlights of this year's fellowship are the Inkblots fellowship night and the launching of "The Varsitarian Campus Press Stylebook" on the first day and the awarding ceremonies for the second National Campus Investigative Journalism Awards on the second day.

Deadline for registration is Oct. 20, Sunday. Payment of registration fees is from Oct. 15 to 19, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Varsitarian office.

For more information, visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 112, UST Main Building, or call John Ferdinand Buen at 731-3101 local 8235 or Julienne Therese Villaluz at (0919) 848-5244. You may also e-mail at varsitar@yahoo.com or register online at www.varsitarian.com/inkblots.

Across the Miles
AT CHRISTMAS
WE'RE THINKING OF YOU
Across the Miles

HALLMARK Cards is holding a sale on Christmas cards until Oct. 14. Specially designed Hallmark Cards for relatives like mother, father and brother, and "Across the Miles" distance cards are sold with 50-percent discount at all National Book Store outlets nationwide.

The first solid food trusted by mothers now goes by the name Nestlé Infant Cereal.

HENRI NESTLE KINDERMEHL

Farine Lactee Nestlé, 1895

NEW Nestlé CERELAC Wheat-Banana

Nestlé Cerelac, 1977

From the time the world's first infant cereal became available in the Philippines, mothers have depended on Nestlé for proper nutrition of weaning babies.

After all, Swiss founder Henri Nestlé created the revolutionary baby food in 1865 to save children in Europe from malnutrition.

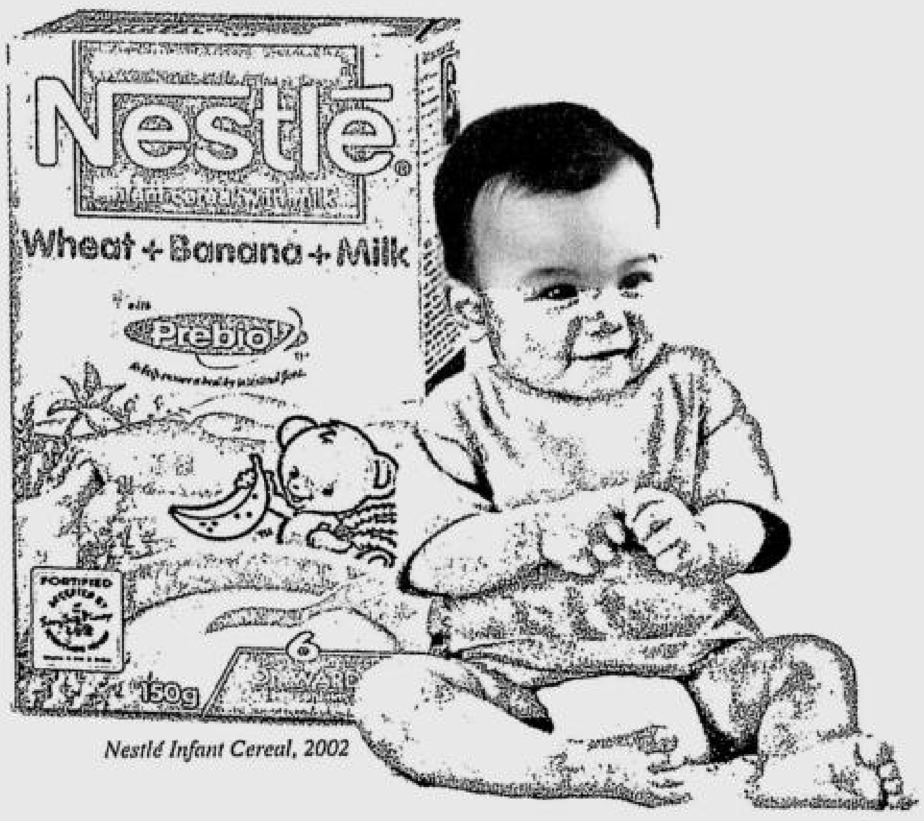
Since then, the fortified baby food has undergone innovations from the Nestlé Research Center.

It now has Prebio' for instance, or natural soluble fibers that boost the immune system and improve digestive health.

It's also the only baby food with the exclusive complete Sangkap Pinoy seal from the Department of Health.

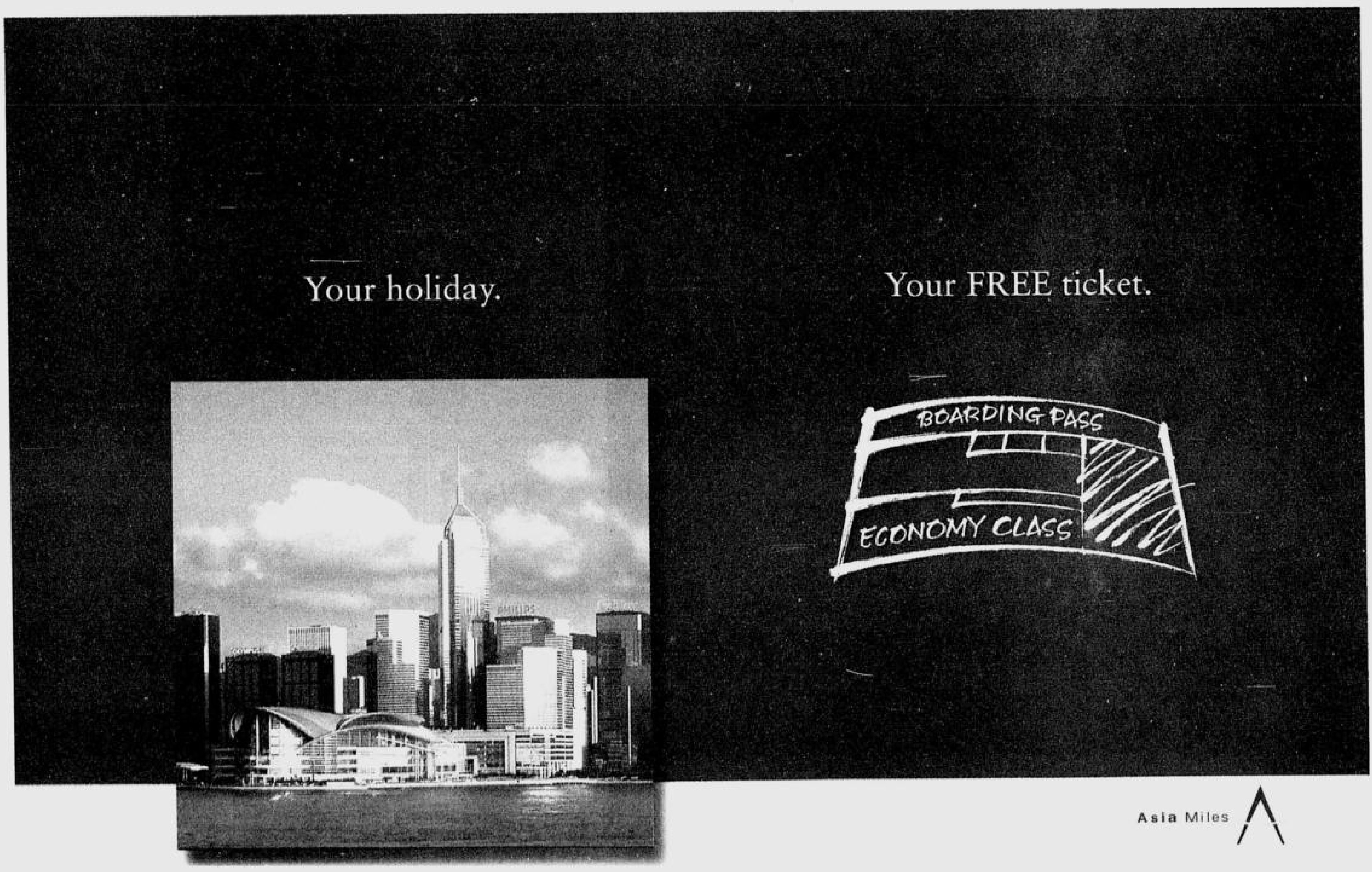
Now available in Wheat + Banana + Milk, Wheat + Milk, Rice Mixed Vegetables, Rice, Brown Rice + Milk and Green Monggo

Nestlé Infant Cereal
Baby's First Solid Food



Nestlé Infant Cereal, 2002

Nestlé
NUTRITION



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Purchase period: Sept. 20 - Nov. 20, 2002. Flying Period: Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, 2002. Terms and Conditions apply.
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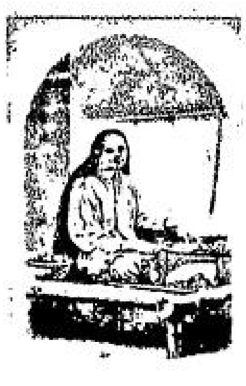
CATHAY PACIFIC
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3662 Series of 2002

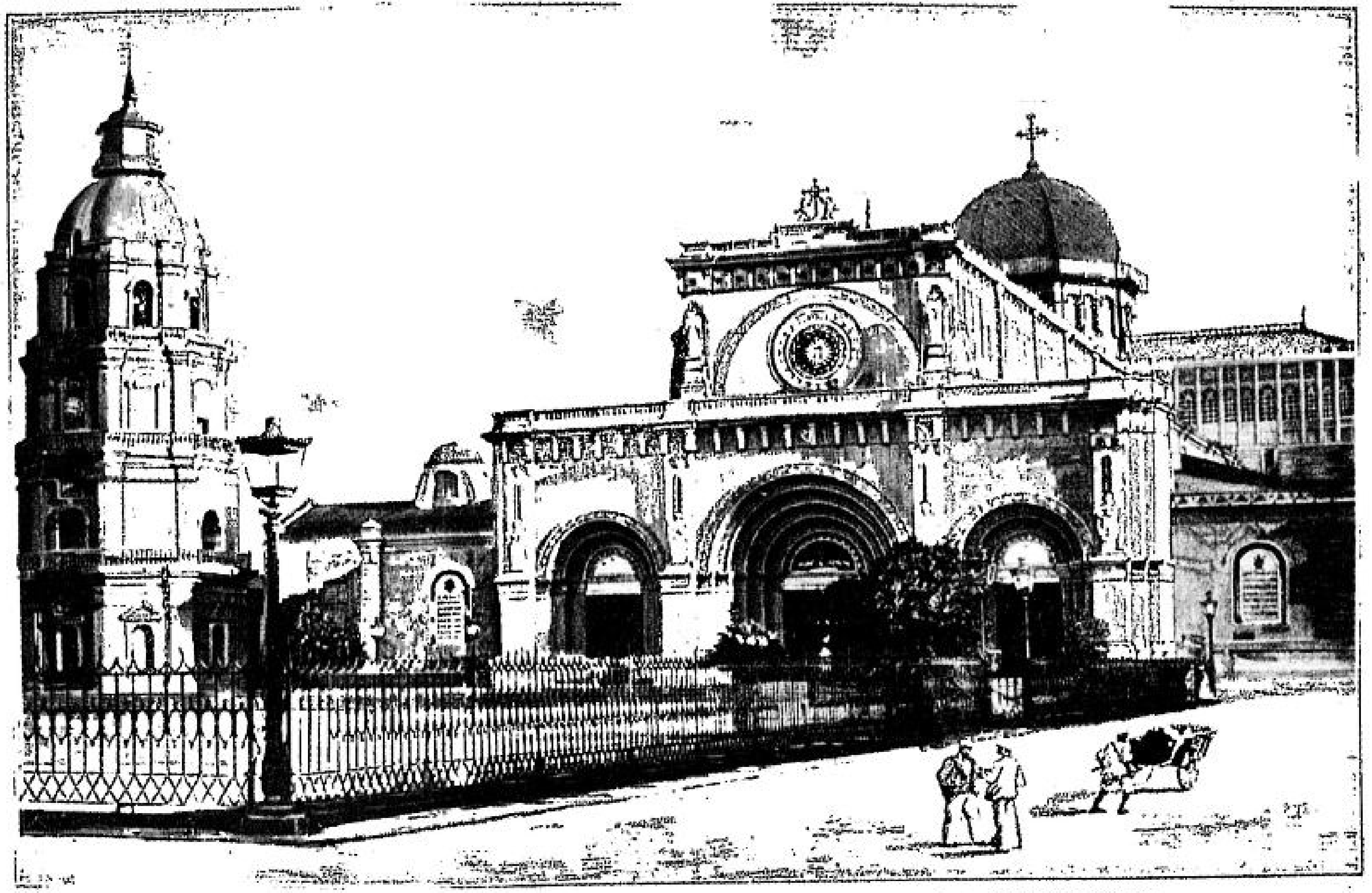
Antiquarian prints: Eloquent lessons in history



BETEL nut vendor

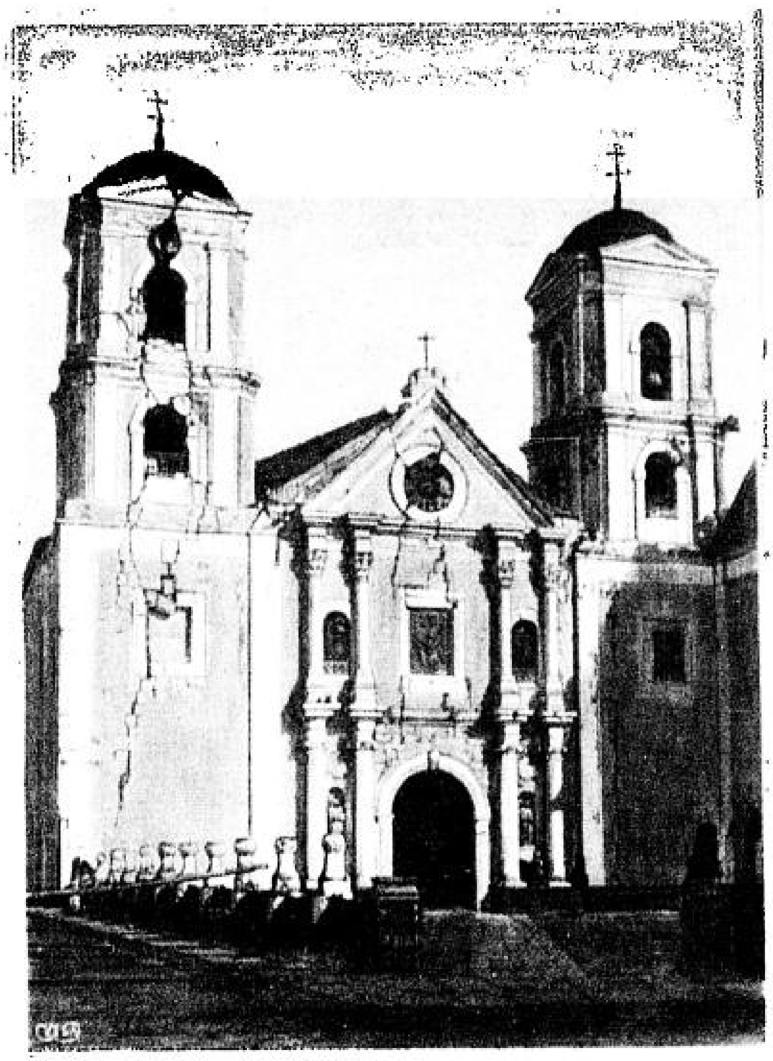
By Berry P. Marfori
Contributor

A MANILA teeming with quaint thatched-roofed homes in one suburb, imposing buildings crowned with cement tiles in another, and clipper ships at the mouth of the River Pasig, are some glimpses of the past offered by an exhibit and sale of rare antiquarian prints at the Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue until Oct. 12.



MANILA.—FACHADA DE LA NUEVA CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA, CONSAGRADA EL 7 DE DICIEMBRE ÚLTIMO.

MANILA Cathedral



MANILA. – ESTADO EN QUE QUEDÓ LA IGLESIA DE SAN AGUSTIN á consecuencia de los temblores de tierra.—(*Fotografía del Sr. Van-Camp.*)

SAN Agustin Church after an earthquake

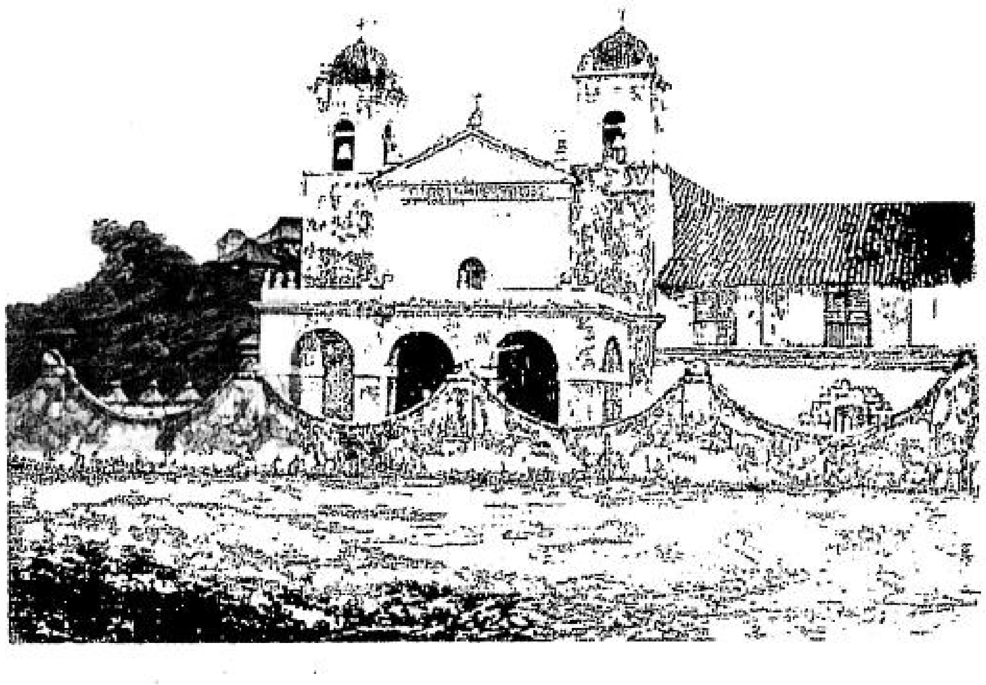
Particularly arresting are the images of familiar landmarks as they stood in another time and age: a sorry San Agustin Church after an earthquake, with cracks running through its belfry; the Manila Cathedral with jacketed, cane-wielding gentlemen at its foreground; and the ornate San Sebastian Church minus the vendors, shanties and other stark indicators of urban congestion that now mar its façade.

The prints culled from books and magazines printed over a century ago are among the most eloquent links to the past, according to Santiago Pilar, a professor of art history at the University of the Philippines and associate editor of the Encyclopedia of Philippine Art. Pilar spoke about Philippine prints at opening day of the exhibit last week.

Parian view

History books can describe the life of the Chinese in the Parian, for instance, but there is nothing quite like seeing a print of a Chinese vessel on the Pasig River to drive home the point that these enterprising people were a vital part of Philippine history.

The over 100 framed prints on view at the Filipinas Heritage Library are actually copper and steel engravings used to illustrate the periodicals and other reading material of the period. Before the advent of photography, these mass-produced illustrations titillated the imaginations of readers and pushed the sales of publications.



CHURCH Caysasay in Batangas

They also gave rise to artists quick to interpret the prevailing sentiments of the era through carefully selected details and their method of transferring images from metal to paper by means of pressure and chemical reaction. "Their workmanship was "simply exquisite," observes Pilar. He relates that many artists today try to capture the excellence of these printmakers and other artists of the period. Nevertheless, the works of 21st-century artisans are simply no match to those of their colleagues from the previous centuries. Part of the reason, opines Pilar, is that today's painters simply have less time to master their craft given the many pressing demands of instant communications and a shrinking world.

As the world continues to digitize, handmade works of art like engravings and lithographs are bound to become more rare and consequently, more valuable, relates Sonia Ner. The writer and editor of a number of books on Philippine art recalls that she has seen the price of botanical prints by master artist Blanco almost triple in merely seven years. While some of the prints may have been reproduced in the thousands, few have survived the ravages of time and mishandling. "Simply put, the supply of these prints is not inexhaustible," she says. And for this reason, these works will continue to appreciate.

Biases

In addition to their value as collectibles, the prints likewise reveal the biases of their intended audiences. Much emphasis, for instance, was placed on the brownness of the skin of the natives, their flat noses, and lackadaisical poses in a number of the works on exhibit. "There was a focus on the primitiveness of the indio," observes Pilar. At the same time, there was a preoccupation with the pristineness of the Philippines, which served as a stark contrast to the industrializing capitals of the West.

Interest in colonies like the Philippines were fuelled in the 19th century largely by scholarly travelers and scientific explorers, discloses Pilar. The latter even came with their own illustrators. At that time, sailing across the oceans had become relatively safe and was no longer viewed as a dangerous journey full of the unknown. Tourism as an industry was born, and American, British, Swiss and German travelers came to the islands in the Orient where Spanish rule held sway.

As art pieces, antiquarian prints have a unique appeal. Ner observes: "They are easy to relate to because they are pictorial. There is no abstraction required to appreciate them." As links to the past, they help the viewer skirt the hard work associated with the printed word and historical monographs. They communicate with a poignant charm that may soon no longer be understood by a world constantly assaulted by instant pictures and the fallout from raw, unedited reality.

It's a Steal!

It's our 34th Anniversary and our best pieces are up for grabs at prices you won't believe. The finest collection of one-of-a-kind pieces all at your fingertips... the season's bounty ripe for the picking. UP TO 40% OFF on selected items (cash basis only)
Promo Period: September 15 to October 31, 2002

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Upper Ground Floor Makati Cinema Square, Makati City 843-8120 • 843-4162 • SM City Manila, 3rd level 400-5413
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3686, Series of 2002.

Electronic poster-making contest winners known

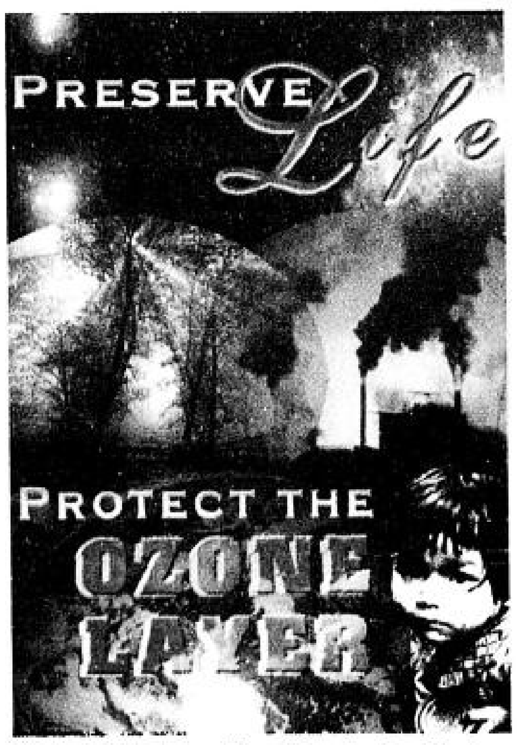
A STUDENT from the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) bagged the top prize for the e-poster making contest of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The posters underscored the importance of protecting the ozone layer from ozone depleting substances (ODS).

Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez personally handed the P30,000 cash award to Allan Louise Cacho of UST, first prize winner of the digital image art competition with the theme "Preserve Life, Protect the Ozone Layer."

The contest was initiated by the Philippine Ozone Desk of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau as part of the observance of International Preservation of the Ozone Layer Month last September.

John Paul Gomez of AMA Makati won second prize while Victor Emmanuel Quintos, also from UST, won third place. The second and third place winners were given P20,000 and P10,000, respectively.

Other finalists who received P1,000 each were: Karlo Zabala of Far Eastern University, Alvin Jugarap of the Asian School of Arts and Sciences, Lizzie Obay of the Technological University of the Philippines, Rey Dan Ormita of FEU, Amador Plopenio of TUP, and Eulogio Gibas of Laguna State Polytechnic Colleges-Los Baños campus.



"LIFE and Ozone," by Allan Louise Cacho of the University of Sto. Tomas

DENR received 58 entries from college students aged 18-21 years old in Metro Manila, and the Southern and Northern Tagalog areas.

TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony

Helping build a better world through the arts

The signs of an elevated civilization lie in its art and culture. Serving as the highest expression of humanity, these aspects of life demonstrate the beauty, nobility and progress of our existence.

For this reason, even global organizations act as substantial patrons of the arts, promoting its magnificence to enlighten, ennoble, and inspire everyone. Toyota Motor Corporation takes its place among these commendable enterprises when it comes to classical music, having continuously staged the Toyota Classics series of concerts in Asia for 12 years now.

The Toyota Classics is the auto manufacturer's sign of commitment to help build a better world through the arts. As Mr. Makoto Ono, Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation's Executive Vice President explained, "We at Toyota have always been guided by the vision of improving the quality of life. While our automotive products attest to this vision, we know we also have to provide for other avenues to make this a reality, and there's no better way than through the arts."

For its sheer universality and vast emotional appeal, classical music has gained the company's support. According to Mr. Ono, "This kind of music is timeless, all-embracing, and powerful. It's something that can be appreciated by almost everyone, regardless of nationality, sex, creed and age. And that's an important consideration when you want to reach out and address the diversity of cultures here in Asia."

The Toyota Classics has already brought to the region some of the foremost musical ensembles in the world, along with the finest soloists, conductors, singers and other prominent musical performers. In the Philippines alone, it has introduced the New York Symphonic Ensemble, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra.

In its 13th anniversary this year, Toyota Classics 2002 will be featuring the Cadaques Orchestra, which is Spain's foremost orchestra and one of Europe's finest. Along with the ensemble is world-renowned French conductor Philippe Entremont, the famous Filipino tenor Leodigario del Rosario, and the acclaimed guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey. Proceeds of the concert will be donated to Tabang Mindanaw III. Through this musical bounty, Toyota Classics patrons will once again confirm for themselves what the British writer Walter Landor said: "Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to heaven."

TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony

Cadaques Orchestra

Philippe Entremont
conductor

José María Gallardo del Rey
guitar

Leodigario Del Rosario
tenor

Working in concert to build a better world

Toyota is proud to announce the 13th annual Toyota Classics. This year's tour will visit 11 countries/territories and is expected to be the biggest Toyota Classics event ever. The Cadaques Orchestra, renowned throughout Europe for its ambitious artistic style, will be the first ever Spanish orchestra to take part. Conducting the performance will be Philippe Entremont, who has worked with many of the world's finest orchestras while simultaneously attaining notable success as a pianist. Additionally, this year's Toyota Classics will feature solos from José María Gallardo del Rey, a guitarist known worldwide for his astounding technique and sensitive interpretations, and prominent Filipino tenor Leodigario B. Del Rosario. Through the Classics series and other events, Toyota is dedicated to cultural exchange for the good of society. Toyota invites you to experience the Toyota Classics 2002, an evening of passion, delight, and the finest classical music.

Toyota Classics 2002

[illegible] P.M. | OCTOBER [illegible], 2002 | MERALCO THEATRE

Tickets available at TicketWorld Outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills) and at the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry and reservation.

All proceeds will be donated to **Tabang Mindanaw III**

TOYOTA
TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

TABANG MINDANAW

Leodigario B. Del Rosario, the famous tenor from Pasig

He may be young, but already his voice is being heard far and wide. And people are definitely sitting up and listening.

This homegrown talent has a singing prowess that has been acclaimed in many opera houses and prized in several competitions here and abroad. With an Artist Diploma in Vocal Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Pasig-born Leodigario B. Del Rosario will make his fellow Filipinos proud once again for a solo engagement with the Cadaques Orchestra during the concert sponsored by the 13th annual Toyota Classics.

Music and art patrons will experience Del Rosario's powerful tenor voice that was honed in the University of the Philippines College of Music and the CIM. At the CIM, under a scholarship provided by grants from several cultural foundations and private enterprises, he was given leading roles in various opera productions, such as Mozart's The Magic Flute, Musgrave's The Abbot of Drimmock, and Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades.

He has also performed in several productions with the Cleveland Opera Company, and with musical ensembles such as the Cleveland Opera Company and the Springville Symphony Orchestra.

At home, he has been a soloist for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and has performed in leading roles in many productions sponsored by the CCP. He has also given solo recitals in his hometown of Pasig, Tagaytay City, Cebu City, Bacolod City, Legazpi City and Catanduanes, and all over Metro Manila. His vocal prowess has earned him first place in the National Association of Teachers in Singing competition for the Great Lake Area in 1999 and finalist in the 2000 Merola auditions. He also won second prize in the NAMCYA competition in 1990, and was the recipient of the Aurelio Estanislao Scholarship in voice at the U.P. College of Music. At the CIM, he received the Boris Goldovsky Prize and the Max Berman Prize in Voice for his outstanding performances in opera production.

For the Toyota Classics 2002, Del Rosario will take his place on stage with Spain's foremost orchestra, the Cadaques Orchestra, renowned French conductor, Philippe Entremont, and the guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey, known worldwide for his outstanding technique and sensitive interpretations.

Bringing the world's best

Cadaques Orchestra is famous for
symphonies with innovative
of contemp

There's a marriage between world-class cars and classical music, and it's been going on for well over a decade now. Since 1990, Toyota Motor Corporation has been actively cultivating this union through its Toyota Classics series of musical concerts, an annual event that tours various Asian countries to signify the company's commitment to build a better world through the arts.

Asia-wide in scope, the Toyota Classics has already introduced some of the world's finest orchestras, conductors, soloists and other ensembles to a highly appreciative audience composed of the company's valued clients. There's the New York Symphonic Ensemble, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra.

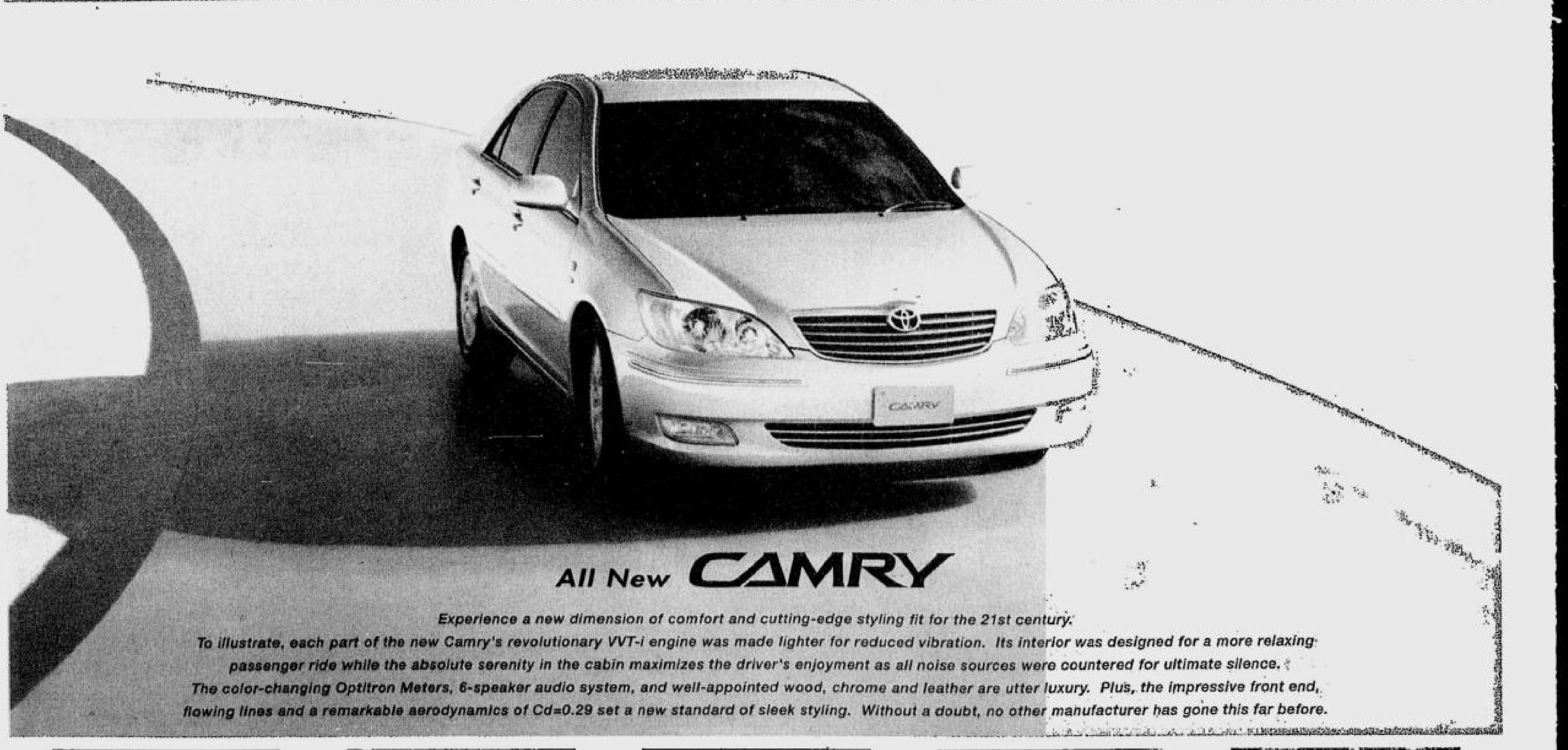
This year, Toyota Classics will set the stage for yet another acclaimed orchestra: the Spanish-based Cadaques Orchestra. This ensemble is famous for its repertoire that combines well-known symphonies with innovative pieces, historical works and premiers of contemporary composers.

Philippe Entremont.

The Cadaques Orchestra, which was founded in 1988 as the Cadaques Festival's residen musical ensemble, is composed of musicians from all over Europe. Its shor yet fruitful existence is marked by various ambitious and artistic projects including collaborations with many famous conductors and soloists.

Conducting the orchestra at the Toyota Classics is the world-famou French conductor, Philippe Entremont. Entremont has won numerou citations both for his performances as pianist and conductor during hi career spanning more than 50 years. Presently Laureate Conductor of th Israel Chamber Orchestra, he has held distinguished musical posts an performed with several of the world's finest orchestras. He was recentl awarded the title of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, th

Passion
CAMRY MAKING OTHERS FOLLOWERS

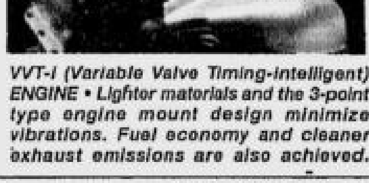


All New CAMRY

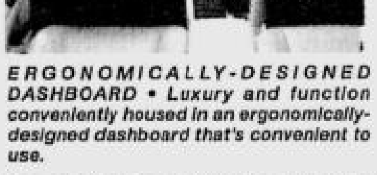
Experience a new dimension of comfort and cutting-edge styling fit for the 21st century.

To illustrate, each part of the new Camry's revolutionary VVT-i engine was made lighter for reduced vibration. Its interior was designed for a more relaxing passenger ride while the absolute serenity in the cabin maximizes the driver's enjoyment as all noise sources were countered for ultimate silence.

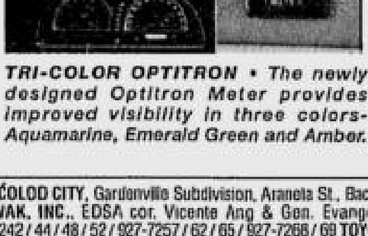
The color-changing Optitron Meters, 6-speaker audio system, and well-appointed wood, chrome and leather are utter luxury. Plus, the impressive front end, flowing lines and a remarkable aerodynamics of Cd=0.29 set a new standard of sleek styling. Without a doubt, no other manufacturer has gone this far before.



VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) ENGINE • Lighter materials and the 3-point type engine mount design minimize vibrations. Fuel economy and cleaner exhaust emissions are also achieved.

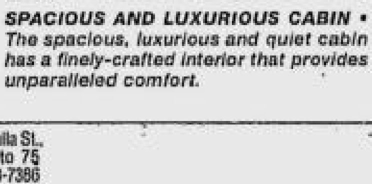


ERGONOMICALLY-DESIGNED DASHBOARD • Luxury and function conveniently housed in an ergonomically-designed dashboard that's convenient to use.



TRI-COLOR OPTITRON • The newly designed Optitron Meter provides improved visibility in three colors-Aquamarine, Emerald Green and Amber.

AUDIO SYSTEM • The multi-functional audio system with single in-dash MD, MP3, and CD player is music to the ears and a visual delight with its changeable color backlight illumination.



SPACIOUS AND LUXURIOUS CABIN • The spacious, luxurious and quiet cabin has a finely-crafted interior that provides unparalleled comfort.

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TOYOTA

TA CLASSICS
rld of Harmony

musical ensembles to Asia

ts reportoire that combines the well-known ieces, historical works and premiers orary composers.

highest decoration bestowed by the French government in the arts.

World-class Filipino Tenor, Leodigario B. Del Rosario, will also perform with the Cadaques Orchestra. With an Artist Diploma in Vocal Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, he was the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding performances in opera production. He has also performed as soloist for numerous orchestras, such as the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, the Springville Symphony Orchestra, and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, and as operatic singer for a number of productions at the CCP.

A special guitar performance will be done by Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey, who has been hailed as one of the few soloists to have cultivated guitar music to reach beyond the classical repertoire. He is also as skilled and experienced with opera and ballet as he is with Flamenco and Jazz, having performed with some of the finest orchestras, chamber groups, ensembles and soloists in the world.

Proceeds from this year's Toyota Classics will be donated to *Tabang Mindanaw III*, a new fund drive that aims to give humanitarian assistance to Filipinos displaced from Malaysia. Toyota Classics will be supporting *Tabang Mindanaw III*'s mission to provide them with livelihood opportunities that will enable them to settle and sustain their lives in the country.

The Toyota Classics 2002 will be held on October 25, 2002 at the Meralco Theater, 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketworld, with prices at P1,500, P1000, P800 and P500. For ticket inquiries, please call Ticketworld at 891-5610. For more information, call Toyota Customer Service at tel. nos. 8248082-84.

Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey

More than a decade of promoting the classics

For the past 12 years now, the whole of Asia has been getting acquainted with some of the foremost musical ensembles in the world, the finest soloists, conductors and other prominent musical performers, and the uplifting stirrings of famous classical and contemporary compositions.

Indeed, the Toyota Classics has come a long way in its steadfast commitment to promote classical music and talents and build a better world through the arts. To date, it has single-handedly produced a total of 96 concerts, and has toured these in most of the major capital cities across Asia. The list of productions reveals the extent of Toyota Classics' accomplishments:

1990	New York Symphonic Ensemble Mamoru Takahara, conductor Hong Kong, Manila, K. Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, Taipei, B.S. Begawan (Brunei)
1991	New York Symphonic Ensemble Mamoru Takahara, conductor; Jann Jaffe, Soprano Taipei, Bangkok, K. Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta
1992	Sapporo Symphony Orchestra Syunsaku Tsutsumi, conductor; Akiko Tanaka, violin Taipei, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Singapore, K. Lumpur, Manila
1993	New York Symphonic Ensemble Mamoru Takahara, conductor Bangkok, K. Lumpur, B.S.Begawan (Brunei), Singapore, Jakarta, Taipei, Manila, Hong Kong
1994	Sapporo Symphony Orchestra Kazuyoshi Akiyama, conductor; Tomoko Kato, violin; Bangkok, Singapore, K. Lumpur, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Manila, Taipei
1995	Orchestre de Chambre National de Toulouse Alain Moglia, conductor; Anne Gastinel, cello; Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Singapore, Jakarta, Hong Kong
1996	Century Orchestra Osaka Hikotaro Yazaki, conductor; Keiko Urushihara, violin; Singapore, K. Lumpur, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Jakarta, Taipei
1997	Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra Mats Liljefors, conductor; Anna Norberg, flute; Taipei, Manila, K. Lumpur, Singapore, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Jakarta, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Hanoi
1998	Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Bangkok, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Singapore, Hanoi, K. Lumpur, Manila, Taipei, Hong Kong
1999	Vienna Volksoper Symphony Orchestra Richard Edinger, conductor; Regina Renzova, soprano; Josef Hopferwieser, tenor Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok, Taipei, K. Lumpur, Hong Kong, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Jakarta
2000	Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra Tetsuji Honna, conductor; Regina Renzova, soprano; B.S. Begawan (Brunei), Singapore, Manila, Seoul, K. Lumpur, Hanoi, Bangkok, Taipei
2001	London Festival Orchestra Ross Pople/Thomas Woods, conductors; Jakarta, B.S. Begawan (Brunei), K. Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok, Taipei, Seoul, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City

Passion

3 YEAR
WARRANTY
100,000 KM

The new seal of excellence.

3 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM

*Except for the Tamaraw FX wagon standard, high side pick up and cab & chassis.

We have always made sure that you get nothing but world-class, foremost quality with your Toyota.
Now we're backing it up even more with an enduring guarantee.
Because from hereon, your Toyota will automatically come with a 3-year or 100,000-kilometer warranty.
It's our heartfelt gratitude for your abiding trust.

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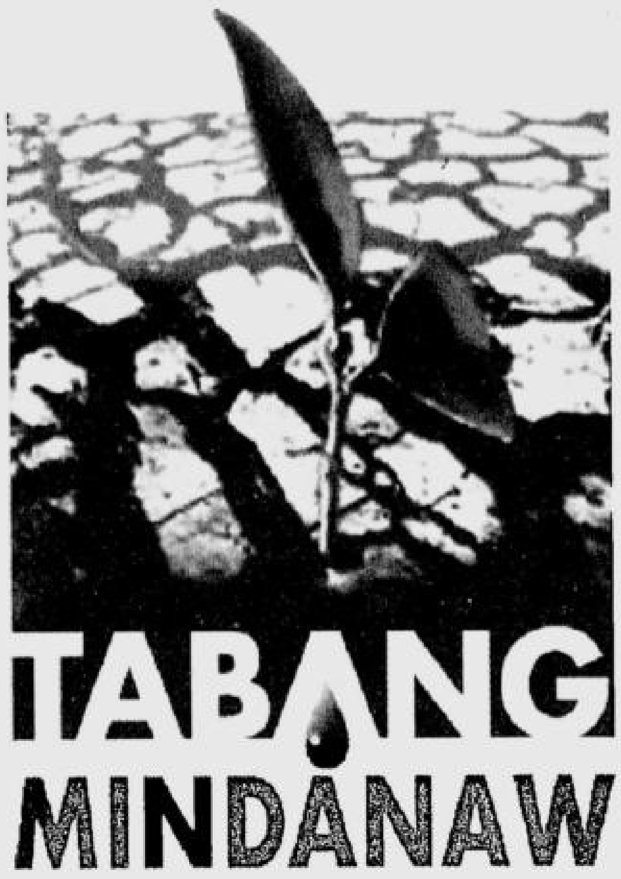
TOYOTA

TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony

Tabang Mindanaw III: *A gift of music, a gift of life*

Tabang Mindanaw (Help Mindanaw) has formed its third massive program of action to provide humanitarian assistance to thousands of Filipinos who have been displaced from Malaysia.

Tabang Mindanaw III aims to enable these fellow Filipinos to settle and sustain their lives in their own country. It seeks to not only supplement government assistance to the emergency food and medical needs but also call on people and institutions of goodwill to come together and help create opportunities in the areas where they are planning to settle.



In support of this heroic objective, Toyota Motor Corporation responds by donating the entire proceeds of this year's production of Toyota Classics to *Tabang Mindanaw III.*

The Toyota Classics 2002 promises to be its biggest production ever, as it will tour 11 countries/territories.

Featured will be Spain's foremost orchestra, the Cadaques Orchestra, which is renowned throughout Europe for its ambitious artistic style. Conducting the performance will be Philippe Entremont, who has worked with many of the word's finest orchestras while simultaneously attaining notable success as a pianist.

Additionally, this year's Toyota Classics will feature solos from world-class Filipino tenor Leodigario B. Del Rosario and Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey, a guitarist known worldwide for his astounding technique and sensitive interpretations.

Through this gift of music, Toyota Classics lives up to its commitment to help build a better world through the arts. Come and experience the grace and exaltation of not only listening to the world's finest classical music but also of helping in a great humanitarian cause.

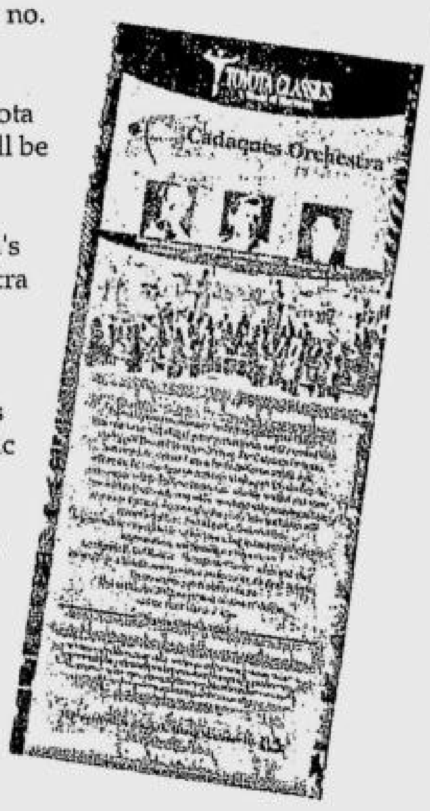
Toyota Classics 2002 will be held at Meralco Theatre in Ortigas, Pasig City on October 25, 2002, 7PM. Tickets are available at TicketWorld Outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills) and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry and reservations.

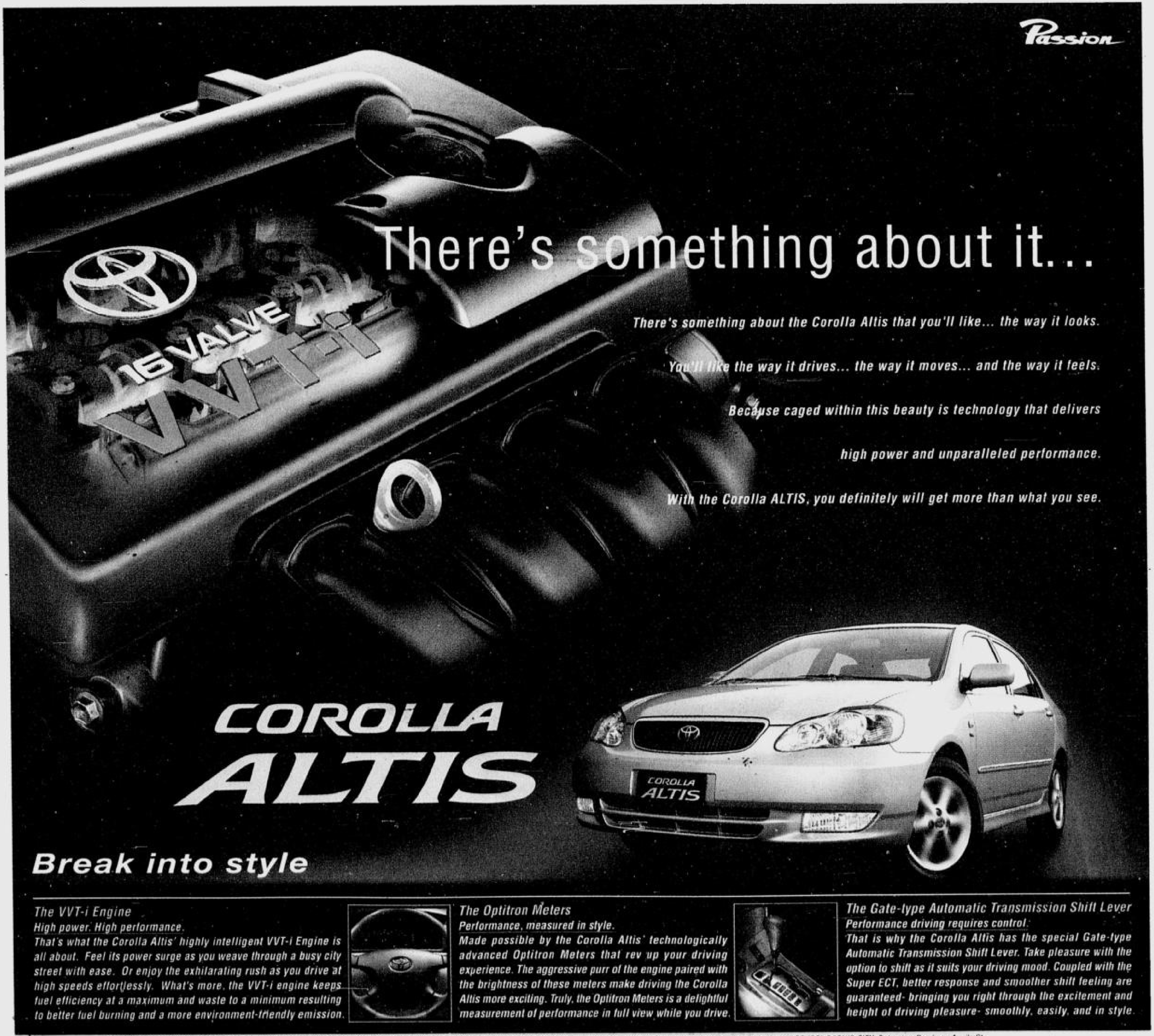
Tickets now available for Toyota Classics 2002

Music lovers and the patrons of the art can now purchase tickets for the Toyota Classics 2002 at TicketWorld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Stores (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Tickets are priced at P1,500, P1,000, P800 and P500. Inquiries and reservations can also be conducted at tel. no. 891-5610.

The Toyota Classics 2002 will be featuring the Cadaques Orchestra, Spain's foremost orchestra and one of Europe's finest ensembles renowned for its ambitious artistic style. In its 13th anniversary production, this year's tour is expected to be the biggest Toyota Classics event ever.





There's something about it...

There's something about the Corolla Altis that you'll like... the way it looks.

You'll like the way it drives... the way it moves... and the way it feels.

Because caged within this beauty is technology that delivers high power and unparalleled performance.

With the Corolla ALTIS, you definitely will get more than what you see.

COROLLA ALTIS

Break into style

The VVT-i Engine
High power. High performance.
That's what the Corolla Altis' highly intelligent VVT-i Engine is all about. Feel its power surge as you weave through a busy city street with ease. Or enjoy the exhilarating rush as you drive at high speeds effortlessly. What's more, the VVT-i engine keeps fuel efficiency at a maximum and waste to a minimum resulting to better fuel burning and a more environment-friendly emission.

The Optitron Meters
Performance, measured in style.
Made possible by the Corolla Altis' technologically advanced Optitron Meters that rev up your driving experience. The aggressive purr of the engine paired with the brightness of these meters make driving the Corolla Altis more exciting. Truly, the Optitron Meters is a delightful measurement of performance in full view while you drive.

The Gate-type Automatic Transmission Shift Lever
Performance driving requires control.
That is why the Corolla Altis has the special Gate-type Automatic Transmission Shift Lever. Take pleasure with the option to shift as it suits your driving mood. Coupled with the Super ECT, better response and smoother shift feeling are guaranteed- bringing you right through the excitement and height of driving pleasure- smoothly, easily, and in style.

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